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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Dead Sea Talks End; 'Positive Atmosphere' Noted

Jordan's al-Tarawinah Briefs Media

JN1808134294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The latest round of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations concluded at the Dead Sea today. Jordan's chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah briefed the media on the outcome:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] I have already pointed out that the two sides are hard at work on all topics. All the committees have had a heavy work load over the past six days. We have begun to understand each other's positions on all the issues. For instance, we set out our position on the technical aspects; the Israelis have yet to lay out theirs. If results are any guide, I cannot say that sufficient progress has been made. However, the fact that the negotiations are proceeding uninterrupted is an indication that we are determined to achieve results.

[Unidentified correspondent] Would you say the Israelis are being receptive to Jordanian demands?

[Al-Tarawinah] As I pointed out, the Israelis have yet to spell out their position. We will be meeting again on 28 August at the designated site. We will want to have quite a few questions answered, and so will they.

[Correspondent] Has the location for the next session been designated?

[Al-Tarawinah] The next session will be convened at the Dead Sea Hotel in Jordan. Naturally, The subsequent meetings will alternate between Jordanian and Israeli locations.

[Correspondent] Would you characterize the latest session as a success?

[Al-Tarawinah] Once again, let me be absolutely clear. We have not reached a common understanding on all issues. Success here must be judged against the volume of our work and the commitment both sides have shown. Both sides are bound by documents. We are not deviating from these documents. We have a joint agenda that was reiterated by the Washington Declaration. [end recording]

Border Demarcation Talks To Continue

TA1808130194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Experts from Jordan and Israel will convene on 23 August in northern Israel to continue negotiating the demarcation of the border between the two countries.

The talks between the two countries, as well as those with U.S. representatives, will resume in Jordan in another 10 days. The two delegations agreed on this in their talks at a Dead Sea hotel. The two sides also agreed on a timetable for the continuation of the negotiations, but no real progress was made in the working groups.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, and his Jordanian counterpart, Fayiz al-Tarawinah, said that both delegations had clarified their positions. Both men stressed the positive atmosphere at the meetings.

Delegates on Possible Tripartite Talks

TA1808190394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Video report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] The lack of coordination between Jordan and the PLO, alluded to yesterday by King Husayn, may grant Israel an advantage at the negotiating table, but the moment is drawing near when care will have to be taken to prevent any disparities between the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks. The mutual suspicion between Jordan and the PLO makes them highly sensitive, even in areas where their apparent differences can be easily resolved, primarily by holding tripartite talks in which the three parties will jointly discuss economic issues. Here are some reactions on this matter by Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the Dead Sea talks, and his Jordanian counterpart, Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah, in Arabic] The Palestinian side is not interested in all the issues that we are discussing. It is interested in certain issues that require coordination and in the joint concepts concerning parts of these issues. Therefore, we always advocate coordination and a comprehensive approach to the issues that places them in their proper context, so that one party is not accused of infringing on the rights of another party. Invitations were extended and we accepted them, but this does not mean that the Palestinian side is invited to engage in all the bilateral talks between us and Israel. These are purely bilateral issues.

[Rubinstein] We will be very pleased if all three parties sit down at the table and discuss these issues. Israel proposed this in the past and continues to propose it. I can really say that to the best of my knowledge, with regard to this issue, the ball is in the Palestinian court. Israel has made such a proposal and, as far as I know, I can cautiously say that the Jordanians have expressed readiness. Right now, it is the Palestinian side that must agree, and if the Palestinians are forthcoming, there can be tripartite negotiations on issues of interest to all three parties. [end recording]

The Americans will apparently make an effort to sit the three parties down together, and perhaps the Egyptians will also participate in a quadripartite format. At some stage, Washington itself may host such a new framework.

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The Jordanians are under the impression that at yesterday's talks with the Palestinians in Alexandria, Israel moved a bit closer to the Palestinians in order to balance the trend emerging from the talks at the Dead Sea. The Palestinians are convinced that Israel is sacrificing their economic interests in order to attract Jordan. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will send Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to Amman next week; however, both King Husayn and 'Arafat are not eager to conduct separate talks. Israel, therefore, with the help of the United States and Egypt, must take steps to prevent an undesirable confrontation on the eve of the transfer of early empowerment to the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Electricity Grid Linkup Accord Signed

TA1908054994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Israel and Jordan have signed an agreement to link up their electricity grids. The accord was signed at the negotiations on the Dead Sea yesterday.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT 19 August cites Energy Minister Moshe Shahal as saying that "the linkup of the Israeli and Jordanian grids in the Elat-al-'Aqabah area will be completed within three months."]

Israeli, PLO Figures Hold 'Informal' Meeting

TA1908085294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Israeli Labor MK Eli Dayan and 'Arafat adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, in Casablanca, by Me'ir Einstein in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Einstein] In the past few days, Israeli and PLO representatives have been discussing the final status of the territories in Casablanca. Two of the representatives are now on the line. Good morning, Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. Did you discuss the final status of the territories?

[Dayan] This encounter, which is held under the aegis of the Moroccan Government, the Bruno Kreisky Forum, and the Institute for the Research of Peace at Tel Aviv University, is attended by MK's and eminent Palestinian figures, most notably Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

This being the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement, we discussed the implementation of the agreement and the problems it generated for the Israelis. We raised the two central issues we would like to see attended to at once. One of these was the cancellation of Palestinian Covenant clauses, and we were informed of the logistic problems obstructing the issue. We were told that all Palestine National Council [PNC] members have to be in Gaza to carry it through. In addition, we discussed the personal security issue, which is cause of concern for Israel. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Dr. al-Tibi, would you say there are more points of accord than discord between the two sides?

[Al-Tibi] I think there is more accord than discord even on the issue of settlements, but mainly on the need to fully implement the Cairo agreements, which is encouraging. There are still some sensitive issues, such as Jerusalem, on which the sides' stands are far apart. I do not want to elaborate on the various proposals raised at the encounter, but I am glad the things were said, that the sometimes polar views were aired.

I would like to point out something that matters to us all: Despite the disagreements and the sensitive issues on the agenda, the personal ties between the participants and the positive, the almost cordial atmosphere here, was what matters. That was our reward, I think.

[Einstein] Dr. al-Tibi, in what capacity are you attending these talks?

[Al-Tibi] In the capacity of Eli Dayan's friend.

[Einstein] MK Dayan, do you confirm? I believe the prime minister has issued an order not to hold any contacts with Dr. al-Tibi as a PLO representative, because he is an Israeli citizen. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] There is no prohibition on contacts with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who is a well-known 'Arafat adviser. He is known to be very close to 'Arafat. He has brought along some important Palestinian figures, such as the PLO representative in Washington and the director of Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] bureau. There is no ban on meetings with him. On the contrary....

[Einstein] Has this encounter received the blessing of the prime minister and the foreign minister, or is it an independent enterprise?

[Dayan] It is an independent enterprise. We have already held several encounters in Cairo with Nabil Sha'th and with Palestinian colleagues in Vienna, and now we are the hosts of the Moroccan Government. Today we are slated to meet the Moroccan prime minister. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Dr. al-Tibi, MK Dayan says this encounter has not received the prime minister's and foreign minister's approval. Is Chairman 'Arafat aware of it?

[Al-Tibi] Yes, I informed the chairman of the encounter prior to my departure. This is an unofficial meeting, and no Israeli or Palestinian officials are participating. Therefore, these informal discussions require no official approval. [passage omitted]

Norway's Godal on Role in Process, Syrian Track

TA1908065994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Report by Hayim Hecht—recorded; italicized passages in English]

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[Excerpts] [Hecht] Since Norway has preferred stock in the Oslo agreement, its foreign minister has arrived to ensure that the deal does not fall through. [passage omitted]

The countries in the region are responsible for the process, Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal pronounces, but we have pledged to remain involved:

[Godal] *Norway has a special responsibility following from our history. There is no plan whatsoever to reduce that role, as far as the Norwegian Parliament and the Norwegian Government are concerned.*

[Hecht] The Norwegian foreign minister chairs the donor states forum, from whose coffers 'Arafat is expected to receive over $2 billion. Godal emphasizes two principles: The Palestinian man in the street must clearly feel that peace pays, that the Oslo agreement is not just another paper. The second principle: The funds will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority only if it displays proper administration and transparent budgetary channels.

[Godal] *We feel that they are on the right track, but there are [word indistinct] from donor nations and other that things are not as they should be in all details, which I think is not that unnatural.*

[Hecht translates the above and continues] Does the success of Oslo 1 and Oslo 2 mean that Oslo 3, with Syria as the partner, is in the works?

[Godal] *They are so far on the U.S. track, so to speak. The matter has been handled through frequent visits and contacts between the Americans and the Syrians, and we see no need to move in.*

[Hecht translates the above and continues] This morning Foreign Minister Godal will meet with Prime Minister Rabin, and later, he will leave with Foreign Minister Peres for a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza.

Senior bureaus in Jerusalem attribute great significance to the Norwegian minister's visit. One of the reasons it that preparations for translating the Oslo success into a Nobel peace prize are under way as we speak.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab News Agencies Union Ends Meeting in Beirut

NC1708174494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] This afternoon Dr. Farid Ayyar, the secretary general of the Union of Arab News Agencies, read the official text of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the union's secretariat general at its meeting, held at the Riviera Hotel in Beirut between 14 and 17 August under the chairmanship of the union's president Dr. Fayiz al-Sayigh, director general of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA.

One important resolution calls for linking the Arab news agencies by satellite. Another resolution accepts the offer from the French Company (Fulecom) due to the exhaustive details it has presented in addition to its costs, which are less than the bids submitted by a British company.

Dr. Ayyar said that the Arab news agencies which approved the plan are the Lebanese National News Agency, and the Moroccan, Syrian, Tunisian, Algerian, Mauritanian, Libyan, Jordanian, and Kuwaiti news agencies. He added that they will send a detailed report to the Secretariat General on the channels and frequencies they need one month from now, so as to prepare a document that will be presented to the French company when contracts are signed. He noted that the Secretariat General will contact the Arab news agencies that have not sent written replies yet to ask for their final decision by 15 September 1994. He added that the contract will be signed by 15 October 1994 if no replies are received by 15 September.

Dr. Ayyar said that the Secretariat General has decided to arrange more training courses for the Arab news agencies' employees and to coordinate with the international news agency pools.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Aug

NC1808113394

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Committee in Support of Bosnia Meets
2. Court To Hear Case Against Ban on Wearing Veil
3. AL-SHA'B Military Editor Released
4. Preacher Scores Sudan's Achievements Under Islamic Regime
5. Al-Azhar Issues Statement on ICPD Action Plan
6. Al-Azhar University Population Center Condemns ICPD Program
7. Writer Exposes ICPD Goals Against Muslims

COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF BOSNIA MEETS

A 500-word report by Subhi Buhayri on pages 1 and 7 notes that the committee in support of Bosnia held a meeting last week attended by numerous politicians and scholars. The committee members, who discussed ways of supporting the Bosnian cause, stressed the importance of "Islamic action," particularly support for al-Azhar and all Islamic organizations. In a speech to the meeting, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri is cited as stressing that efforts at this stage must focus on consolidating the Muslim Bosnians' position. We must offer them the means to assert their international identity, he said. Noting that while the Islamic countries' conference on

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Bosnia produced no results, he said it was a good step toward the goal. Shukri is quoted as adding: We must pressure the big powers for a peaceful solution to the problem, securing the Bosnian people's national rights.

COURT TO HEAR CASE AGAINST BAN ON WEARING VEIL

A 120-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that the Administrative Judicial Court will resume its hearing on 16 August of a lawsuit filed by many lawyers to abolish the education minister's decision banning the wearing of the veil in schools. The report says that this is one of 40 cases involving lawyers, parents, and ulema against the decision. The report says that the education minister has not yet issued a decision obliging education departments to allow veiled students to enter classes.

AL-SHA'B MILITARY EDITOR RELEASED

A 50-word unattributed report on page 1 says that AL-SHA'B military editor 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn was released last week after spending three months in military and civilian jails.

PREACHER SCORES SUDAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ISLAMIC REGIME

In a 5,000-word interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, preacher, university professor, and prayer leader of the 'Amr Ibn-al-'Ass Mosque in Cairo, on page 2 by Muhammad 'Arafah, Shahin elaborates on a recent visit to Sudan to attend an Islamic conference. He says secularists and leftists launch venomous campaigns against him for his defense of Islam and for underscoring the achievements in Sudan under the Islamic regime. He notes: Under the Islamic regime, Sudan has been united, the rebels in the south defeated, and millions of acres of agricultural land cultivated, foiling the U.S. blockade of Sudan. He says he believes that great efforts are being exerted to Islamize south Sudan. He contends that the Islamic conference in Khartoum was a political demonstration intended to support the government's position on Islamic shari'ah. He says the conference passed recommendations stressing Sudan's Islamic identity, because Western nations seek to "distort" this image.

AL-AZHAR ISSUES STATEMENT ON ICPD ACTION PLAN

AL-SHA'B publishes on page 3 the 1,000-word "text" of a statement released by the al-Azhar Islamic Research Council demanding revision of the International Conference on Population and Development's [ICPD] action plan.

AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY POPULATION CENTER CONDEMNS ICPD PROGRAM

A 1,200-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on the same page notes that the al-Azhar University International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research released a report denouncing the ICPD's action program, which encourages "permissiveness and change in Islamic society's morals and traditions" through the media and abortion. It says these ideas run counter to Islamic shari'ah and to all the recommendations passed by previous conferences on population and urges revision of its action plan.

WRITER EXPOSES ICPD GOALS AGAINST MUSLIMS

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 elaborates on the ICPD's goals. Husayn stresses that the "confrontation" of the ICPD must not be confined to al-Azhar and the Church. The issue concerns the whole nation, because the ICPD's program "destroys family, spreads a lack of discipline in sexual relations, and devastates society at its foundations." More than a few paragraphs of the ICPD document should be rejected, he says; the "venom" permeates its every page. He discusses the ICPD's sponsors' goals, saying that they seek to curb population growth for fear of increasing poverty in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The real reason, he suggests, is that they want to dominate the Third World and serve their own interests because the growth of the Muslim world would threaten the West's national interests. He says he regrets that the Egyptian Government played a major role in implementing the "international conspiracy against Islamic societies." He maintains that the Egyptian Government went so far in its collusion as to hold the conference in Egypt, a conference aimed at "annihilating mankind and Muslims." He believes that U.S. aid, the United Nations Population Fund, and the World Bank fund the plans for birth control.

Palestinian Affairs

Authority Official Discusses Transfer of Power

NC1908083394 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Zakariya al-Agha, Palestinian National Authority official, in Gaza, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Good morning, Minister.

[Al-Agha] Good morning.

[Al-Miliji] Minister, the first decision passed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides was that of transferring education and cultural powers to the Palestinians on 29 August. Does this transfer of power encompass all the occupied Arab territories or is it confined to Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Agha] Right now these powers are confined to Gaza and Jericho. On 29 August these two powers will be extended to all the occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Al-Miliji] How about the remaining five powers?

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[Al-Agha] The agreement we reached with the Israelis represents modest, partial progress. We had hoped for an immediate transfer of at least five powers much earlier. The agreement we have just reached is confined to transferring the powers of education and culture in about 10 days from now. It is an achievement but an incomplete one. The transfer of the remaining powers to the Palestinian side should take place at a faster pace.

[Al-Miliji] Why has there been a delay in agreeing on the transfer of the remaining powers?

[Al-Agha] The Palestinian side has no answer to that. We are astonished at this delay. The problem is being created by the Israelis, who keep placing obstacles in the way. Sometimes they insist that all the funds necessary for the transfer of these powers be in place, a condition we do not see as reasonable. The Israelis also link the transfer of power with some of the security incidents that take place, something to which we object.

According to the Cairo Agreement and the Declaration of Principles, five powers should be transferred to the Palestinians at an early stage, that is, as soon as the Palestinians take charge in Gaza and Jericho. This transfer of the five powers should have taken place three months ago.

[Al-Miliji] When we discuss the early transfer of power, are we referring to Gaza and Jericho only?

[Al-Agha] No. In Gaza and Jericho the Palestinians are already in charge of all—approximately 38—powers. We are discussing extending these powers to the rest of the West Bank. According to the agreement, five powers would be extended to the rest of the West Bank with the beginning of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. In the following three months all the powers assumed by the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho were supposed to be extended to the rest of the West Bank. This did not happen.

[Al-Miliji] The Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed during the Liaison Committee meeting to release 249 Palestinian prisoners. The question is: Are there still Palestinian prisoners?

[Al-Agha] Dear brother, yes, there are still prisoners. The majority, that is, over 50 per cent of the prisoners, are still detained. There was an accord between the two sides based on the Cairo Agreement to release 5,000 Palestinian prisoners three to five weeks after the signing of the agreement on 4 May. This meant that 5,000 Palestinian prisoners should have been released at least two months ago. But this has not been done. Only around 3,800 have been released, that is, 1,000 less than the number agreed on. The total number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons is between 9,500 and 10,000. Even after the release of the 249 prisoners, there are still between 5,000 and 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. [figures as heard]

[Al-Miliji] How long will these prisoners remain detained?

[Al-Agha] The question should be addressed to the Israeli side. The signing of the peace agreement means that all the charges against the detainees, the PLO men, and the Resistance fighters have vanished with the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo Agreement according to which the prisoners should be released and the PLO cadres allowed to return. We cannot understand this Israeli procrastination in releasing the remaining Palestinian prisoners. All of them should be released because we are at the stage of peace. I would like to remind you that when prisoners were exchanged in 1982 and 1985, thousands of Palestinian prisoners were released in exchange for few Israeli prisoners. Supposedly, there should now be a general amnesty and all the Palestinian prisoners should be released in return for the state of peace and the peace agreement with Israel. The Israeli side is still procrastinating with various excuses, occasionally using the excuse of security and occasionally the condition for an amnesty for the collaborators. There are many meaningless excuses.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the agreement on the immediate implementation of the measures for the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho, can you, Minister, give us more details about it?

[Al-Agha] It is a corridor between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. As agreed on, every Palestinian from the Gaza Strip or Jericho has the right to use this corridor.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the other authorities and the pending issues between you and the Israeli side, have you agreed on another date for discussing them?

[Al-Agha] The negotiations are continuing because we want to finish this issue as soon as possible. The Gaza Strip was not the objective of our agreement with them. The objective is to start with the Gaza Strip and Jericho and have these authorities and the Palestinian authority move to the other areas of the West Bank three months later so that we can hold the elections for the legislative self-rule council, which will be the highest authority inside the homeland. It will of course be part of the Palestine National Council. This council inside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will be the highest authority.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you Minister Zakariya al-Agha, who was speaking to us from Gaza.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

Finance Official Regrets Jordanian-Israeli Deal

JN1808171894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Report on interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PNA official in charge of economic affairs, by radio correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat; place and date

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not given; from the "With the Events" program—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Any agreement affecting the interests of people who are not under the sovereignty of either of the two signatories would be going beyond its jurisdiction. This was stated by Dr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of the finance portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], on the economic agreement that was signed between Israel and Jordan on exports to the territories.

He said: *Any agreement affecting the interests of people who are not under the sovereignty of the parties to the agreement would be going beyond its jurisdiction. We have regrettably learned that the agreement deals with the exportation of products to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This should only take place with the PNA. We are delighted to see Jordanian commodities coming in at quantities much larger than those mentioned in the agreement. However, it should have been acknowledged that this is part of the jurisdiction of the PNA, with which the agreement should have been concluded.*

In response to a question on the transfer of authorities in the education sector to the PNA, Dr. al-Nashashibi said: "We welcome early empowerment in the education and health sectors. However, we say that this is not enough. While welcoming this move, we insist on the transfer of authority in all taxation fields so that resources are made available to honor our obligations toward 17,000 employees who became part of our responsibility in accordance with [word indistinct]."

I asked Dr. al-Nashashibi whether the taxation system in the self-rule area and the West Bank has been completed. He said: *We will gradually complete these arrangements. Regarding the Gaza Strip, yes, the taxation system has been completed. Regarding, the West Bank, it will be completed soon, God willing.*

Official Views Newspaper Banning, Detainees

JN1808204194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 6

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, PNA "justice minister", by Muhammad 'Allam in Gaza; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Allam] The Palestinian detainees have not been released despite the Cairo agreement and promises. Are there any contacts with Israel besides the ongoing negotiations?

[Abu-Middayn] People will begin to have doubts about the peace process if the detainees remain in Israel. We refuse to allow this issue to be a subject for bargaining in which the detainees, who should be released, are equated with collaborators. No political price should be paid for the issue of detainees and no conditions should be imposed either.

Obtaining a pledge from detainees, once they are free, not to engage in any acts contradicting the declaration of principles in itself is a worthless contract of surrender. The problem is that even those who have signed such a pledge have not been released. [passage omitted]

['Allam] The decision against AL-NAHAR newspaper was made by the security authorities rather than the judiciary authorities. Does the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] fear any criticism?

[Abu-Middayn] It is not an issue of criticism. President 'Arafat hears a lot of abusive language every day and does not care. However, the higher national interest should be taken into consideration. Acceptance of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel on Jerusalem has serious implications, because the relevant section amounts to a "Balfour Declaration." Moreover, President Bill Clinton's reduction of the Jerusalem issue to a Vatican issue is equally serious. Jerusalem will never be the Vatican and is not a religious issue. It does not concern the Palestinians alone. The Jerusalem issue is one of politics and history and geography.

When we met with the Israelis last week, we asked them: Has the 15-year peace you made with the Egyptians amounted to much more than the treaty's papers? Peace will not be achieved without Jerusalem and its evacuation, either through the good offices of the Egyptians or the Palestinians. We greatly appreciate the role played by Egypt, the Holy al-Azhar Mosque, and the Coptic Church. This issue has been decided by the Egyptian leadership in the form of a positive stand.

This consequently led to a measure banning AL-NAHAR newspaper from circulation within the self-rule areas. No Palestinian should accept any other Arab flag to be raised above the al-Aqsa Mosque. Decisionmaking is not my business. Besides, I was outside Gaza at the time the measure was taken.

['Allam] Why was a decision on the collaborators with the occupation authorities delayed? What are your intentions?

[Abu-Middayn] We will pardon them but not under Israel's conditions. This is a complicated issue because it is hard to absorb those who were against you. They were the victims of Israel and of the occupation, which used all means to forcibly mobilize the people, starting with a loaf of bread.

Let us speak frankly. Who built the settlements? Was it not the Palestinian people? We felt we were digging our own graves for a loaf of bread. The issue of the collaborators is a social and economic issue.

In response to Israel's conditions, which link the release of the detainees to pardoning the collaborators, we told them they can take with them the collaborators they are concerned about because they are neither important to us nor to Israel. It makes no difference when 500 people

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are taken from al-Duhniyah—an Israeli detention camp for spies near Rafah—to Israel.

There is yet another problem of families—whose innocent sons were killed after being accused of collaboration— who are demanding revenge. This situation was handled by issuing a decision to adopt all the families of those who were killed by mistake or not. This is because these families should not be held responsible for the collaborator's death, whether he deserved to be killed or not.

This issue should be handled on the social level to prevent harming the children of the collaborator. We are close to opening a new chapter that avoids any acts of revenge. We will not allow anyone who bears a grudge to take revenge. We urge every citizen who believes that someone was killed by mistake not to take revenge. He should come to us so we can issue a writ of acquittal for the one killed if the investigation proves he was not a collaborator.

There is a lot of oppression. People were being killed for personal reasons. The phenomenon of killings carried out by masked people and of arbitrary interrogation was serious and demonstrated terrifying violations. Some people, who were innocent were killed. However, this phenomenon is not big in Palestine. In France, 5,000 people accused of collaborating with the Nazis, were killed during four years of occupation. Meanwhile, we are talking about 1,000 people who were killed during 27 years of occupation. [passage omitted]

Commander on Sending Released Prisoners to Jericho

TA1808171594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Military sources have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that there are still obstacles to the release of Palestinian prisoners tomorrow because of problems on the Palestinian side, which has not yet announced its consent to accept the released prisoners in Jericho in accordance with the Cairo agreements.

Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, military commander of the Jericho area, told our correspondent that all the released prisoners must be sent to their hometowns so that Jericho does not turn into a big prison. Brig. Gen. Jabr added that no one from the Israeli side has contacted him to coordinate the arrival of the released prisoners and that when such contact is made, the issue will be discussed.

Peres Said Failing To Understand Situation

TA1808163594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Return to the Method of Procrastination"]

[Text] The Israeli side's delay in implementing the steps that have been agreed on in the peace process cannot be interpreted other than as a reflection of a certain lack of seriousness and credibility on one hand and a failure to realize the consequences of such a policy on the other.

For example, yesterday's remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres prior to his departure for Cairo, in which he demanded of the Palestinians things that are not easy to implement in light of the current realities and conditions, do not indicate a correct understanding of the Palestinian situation. Those remarks may have stemmed from an unrealistic perception of the impact of the peace process on the Palestinian people's situation. The fact is that in the three months since the implementation of the Cairo agreement, the impact of this process on the residents' daily lives has been limited.

Furthermore, the Palestinian Authority is still endeavoring to fulfill its role in providing public and basic services to the residents within the limited possibilities and under difficult financial conditions. Consequently, the Israeli side's presentation of demands to the Authority during this difficult time is regarded as a form of political pressure on the Palestinians, particularly when the Israeli side links the fulfillment of these demands to the achievement of real progress in the ongoing talks with the Palestinians on the transfer of powers and the expansion of the transitional rule area to include all of the West Bank.

Without delving into the details of these demands and whether they can be implemented at all, the Israeli side must realize that the endeavor to achieve peace should be a goal in itself rather than a means to dictate demands and conditions. Peace is in everyone's interest, not only in the interest of the Palestinians. Had the Israeli side taken this approach from the outset, the peace process would have actually taken a long stride toward the realization of the just Palestinian aspirations. Those aspirations will remain the firm and sound basis for a just and lasting peace that will put an end to all manifestations of violence and animosity in this region and steer its peoples toward prosperity and comfort.

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Algeria

Activities of 10 Islamic Associations Suspended

NC1808155394 Paris AFP in English 1511 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 18 (AFP)—Ten Algerian "Islamic Leagues" have been suspended for six months by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection under a decree published in the Official Journal Thursday.

The leagues are Islamic associations, each with its own particular area of interest.

Among the suspended organisations are the Islamic leagues for health, education, public functions, finance, and information and culture.

The order suspending the associations added their premises had been closed.

The majority of Islamic organisations, including town and regional councils, were dissolved in February 1992 when a state of emergency was declared in Algeria.

That move followed the cancellation by the army of the second round of national elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Ministry Reports 159 Killed by 18 Aug Earthquake

LD1908083194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Interior Ministry has announced new provisional figures stating that the death toll has reached 159 people and that 289 people were injured. The number of those afflicted is estimated at 10,000.

Egypt

ICPD Said Planning for 'Annihilating' Oppressed

NC1808175394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p 5

[Article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn: "Western Studies Reveal the Real Goal of the Conference on Annihilating Mankind and Muslims"]

[Excerpts] The Cairo International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has triggered an uproar throughout the world. All religious people (Muslims and Christians) have risen in defense of the principles and virtues God ordered man to establish in the human community—virtues that the Cairo conference seeks to ruin. The conference wants to destroy the family and spread a lack of discipline in sexual relations, and thus devastate society at its foundations. It was natural for our "al-Azhar" to lead the confrontation. It issued an historic statement to clarify the Almighty's definitive command.

The confrontation within Egypt should not be exclusive to al-Azhar and the church. The issue involves the entire nation, and resisting what is happening is an obligatory duty, the negligence of which would be sinful. We draw everybody's attention to the fact that what should be rejected in the document the Cairo conference plans to issue is not limited to a few paragraphs; venom permeates all the pages (120 pages). From page one to its conclusion, the document imposes a Western-style materialist and secularist vision upon people of other cultures, who have different values and traditions. This is the well-known destructive arrogance of Western colonialism. If the highest degree of debauchery and boldness appear to some of us to be contained in the document's opening statements about curbing the role of the family and marriage and defending abortion, more serious is the document's call for annihilating our people. Yes, the Cairo conference calls for annihilating oppressed people and for killing Muslims in particular without shedding blood. Accepted by no religion or mind, this scheme is set to be approved in Cairo. We Muslims are required to carry it out ourselves. In other words, this annihilation scheme wants us to kill our own children. How profligate of them and how humiliating for us and negligent of us!

They allege that their call for curbing population growth in Asia, Africa, and Latin America is prompted by their fear that poverty might spread in these regions. This allegation has no scientific basis. Besides, where did they get all that human sympathy? It was they who pillaged our wealth, imposed economic underdevelopment on us for centuries, and drowned us in debt.

Just as they killed us with bombs and bullets in the past to tighten their grip on us and get wealthy at our expense, today they seek to kill us and bury our children alive for the same purpose: To keep us poor and not to help us flourish and develop.

In a moment of candor, American professor Frank Notstein [name as published] wrote that "a program must be developed to curb population growth in the southern hemisphere. Otherwise, economic progress in these regions will give rise to a world in which the states in control today will be turned into a minority with diminishing weight and, consequently, a dwindling share of global wealth and a weakening ability to control it. Our national policy toward underdeveloped regions must be determined in light of this fact." (Notstein worked as head of the UN Population Committee and, before that, as director of the Population Research Center at Princeton University.)

Following the same line, Jean-Claude Chaussnet (director of the National Institute for Population Studies-Paris) said: "Europe is up against a Muslim and African majority, with a widening population and economic gap between areas north and south of the Mediterranean. With wealth concentrated in the north, people tend to move from south to north. With a growing population,

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youthful powers will emerge in the south against the aging powers of the north, which will die out due to a dwindling population."

Hence, they fear population growth in our countries, not because it harms us, but because it harms them. It encircles them and ends their injustice to us and their utilization of our resources. Population growth in the oppressed countries (against a dwindling population in industrialized states) indeed has "a deep impact on the world political system and the global balance of power," according to a study discussed at a conference organized by the U.S. Army on long-term planning (1991).

The same concept was earlier expressed in a study by the Zionist Henry Kissinger, when he was a national security adviser. He viewed the population increase in "the Third World" as a threat to U.S. national security. He stressed the need to focus primarily on reducing population growth in 13 states, which he specified. Of these, seven are Muslim states (led by Egypt), or states with a large Muslim minority (like India). Kissinger's memorandum, NSSM-200 [title in English], was banned from circulation and publication until 1990.

The focus on the Islamic nation is no coincidence. In his 1991 book "The First Universal Nation," Ben Wattenberg says in a chapter called "The Islamic Explosion": "There are more than 1 billion reasons to assume that the international influence of Islam will increase." He declares that chief among these is the fact that "the Islamic nations are growing at a much higher rate than other nations. In advanced industrial countries, a woman has 1.7 children on average; in Soviet bloc countries 2 children; in (non-Muslim) developing countries 4.5 children; but in Islamic countries the rate is 6 children for every mother."

Wattenberg adds that the world's Muslims, who numbered less than 375 million in 1950, are expected to increase to a total of 2 billion in two generations if their current population growth rate continues.

These data were mentioned, with the same degree of panic, by a report called "The Demography of Islamic Nations," published by the Population Follow-Up Bureau—Washington [name of organization as published]. The report says that Muslims currently make up 20 percent of humanity, that Islamic countries are the fastest growing human communities, and that if current growth rates continue, they will comprise 23 percent of humanity [no projected date given]. The report notes that the population growth rate in Islamic nations is 2.8 percent, that this is 22 percent higher than the rate in other developing countries, and 833 percent higher than the rate in industrial countries.

In view of these data, a careful plan had to be made to abort the population increase in our countries. The aim is to undermine the primary factor of our likely economic development and the possible growth of our power against our enemies. A careful plan to abort our population increase must necessarily begin by distorting Islamic beliefs and making them appear to say something different than they were originally intended to say. In its proper interpretation, our religion advocates human reproduction with the guarantee that God will provide sustenance if we work hard for it. How could Islam suddenly turn into a religion preaching birth control out of a fear of scarcity? It was necessary therefore to resort to "black publicity" methods. If you wish to convince a community of something contrary to its beliefs and interests, the best way to do so is to use some of its own members, not foreigners whom they might suspect. This is known as "black publicity," the purpose of which is to mislead. This was done by using some Muslim ulema to advocate birth control inside Muslim communities.

Various agencies actively implemented and financed the scheme, specifically AID [Agency for International Development], the United Nations Population Fund, and the World Bank.

We know of course what is happening inside Egypt (statements by senior officials about the benefits of birth control, the use of newspapers, radio, television, and movies to promote direct and indirect birth control propaganda, and providing contraceptives at very low prices). More seriously, they have used fatwas [religious rulings] by some of our ulema. Prayer imams and preachers are now taught these fatwas and told to convey them to the public.

What we see happening in Egypt has also happened in all the Islamic countries on which Kissinger focused. Pressure was exerted on their governments to adopt birth control policies. Groups of ulema and imams (as a result of erroneous interpretation of religious teachings or to serve their own interests) got involved in this vicious conspiracy against their religion and nation. This occurred in a very noticeable manner in Nigeria and also in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh.

We regret to note that the Egyptian state has played a principal role in implementing this international conspiracy against Islamic communities. The Egyptian state is using all its resources to play the "black advocate" role in all areas of the Islamic world.

The role the state is playing is well known. President Mubarak received the UN Population Prize on the grounds that the Egyptian Government beat other governments in reducing the number of its citizens. By the way, the prize money is only $10,000, and a Turkish national who heads a private family planning establishment received the same prize.

The Egyptian Government's role is not confined to implementing the international scheme at home, but extends to other countries as well. The mere fact that Egypt (the home of al-Azhar) enthusiastically espouses birth control is a tremendous help to family planning advocates in the various Muslim communities. It spares them religious censure.

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Our government did not limit itself to this indirect assistance but convened numerous seminars to win over ulema in other countries opposed to birth control. The government exploited the fatwas and interpretations that some of our ulema issued, thus involving themselves in the scheme. These fatwas and interpretations were translated and widely disseminated. [passage omitted]

We therefore are facing a satanic strategic scheme with a specific time frame that ends in 2020. The scheme is being managed and implemented by hundreds of institutions and financed by billions of dollars. It has been persistently pursued for years under the cloak of the United Nations and the World Bank—agencies known to receive orders from rich Western governments, especially the U.S. Government. In this article, I have discussed some of what I read about this scheme and its mechanisms. What is hidden, however, is more serious!

As we said, the scheme is not aimed at developing the poor world. It is a racist plan designed to continue looting and weakening us in favor of the dominating white race. The originators of this scheme believe they can stand in the face of God's will to increase his people as long as the increase takes place, as it does, among humans they believe to be of a lower kind than themselves! May their beliefs and endeavors be frustrated.

The satanic scheme is aimed at undermining religious fundamentals and the institutions they established—institutions without which no human development can take place. The scheme advocates spreading obscenities, the collapse of the institutions of marriage and the family, and the legalization of abortion. Through this social decay, the authors of the scheme hope to reach their final goal, which is to have us stop reproducing and to have our societies become infertile like theirs.

If their objectives are achieved in the Islamic nation, we will have weakened ourselves and heightened their arrogance. How, then, can any of us help them realize their objectives? How can we explain the positions of Egypt's rulers, who are committing a treachery against all the oppressed, especially the Islamic nation?

In their collusion, our rulers went so far as to host the ICPD on our soil. The conference is the culmination of a scheme aimed at annihilating mankind and Muslims. The document that will be issued by the conference means we are adopting the plan of our own destruction!

The forces behind the Cairo conference are those that traditionally resist our religious beliefs because they hinder the implementation of their racist policies in the area of population. At the head of these forces are: The U.S. Aid Agency, the World Bank, and the United Nations; the conference will be held under the latter's banner. But the United States is the country that is effectively leading the whole operation, as is the case with all current actions of the United Nations. This is reflected by the fact that the U.S. vice president is attending the conference and the fact that the United States, during preparations for the conference, is playing an active role in influencing governments to accept the conference's prepared decisions. In October, the U.S. State Department sent a cable to this effect, signed by Tim Wirth, to all its diplomatic missions. The cable stresses that the Clinton Administration gives high priority to asserting U.S. leadership in international population policy. Accordingly, the cable instructs that intensive contacts on population issues be held with governments to impose "international consensus regarding the need for a policy that maintains a stable world population." This consensus or agreement is what the ICPD seeks to achieve, and President Mubarak was among the first leaders to sign a document prepared by the UN Population Fund. The fund is committed to achieving the same goal, where the number of births becomes equal to the number of deaths—something that requires the massive use of contraceptives.

It is being said that we are not committed to implementing any items or statements contrary to our religion. And it is being said that discussions in the conference will be free of any restrictions. We respond to this by saying that the organizers and financiers of the conference have obtained advanced approval of the presented documents, especially after the New York meeting in April. If some parties declare their opposition at the conference, the organizers have made sure those opponents will be a minority, and those who will finance the publications after the conference will make sure that this opposition is suppressed: they will publish only what they consider to be the broad consensus among the conferees.

In fact, if any party can express its objections and non-compliance, the Egyptian Government will be the last to have this right. How can Egypt express opposition if it is the host country, if its president is the chairman of the conference, if it approved everything during the preparatory stages, and if it was one of the first countries to sign the May document on stabilizing the size of its population?

Our rulers' implementation of the entire scheme above, which reaches its climax at the Cairo conference, is not merely compliance with foreign instructions. Our rulers and the authors of the satanic scheme share the same intentions for many reasons, some of which look bizarre. We hope to explain this in another article, God willing.

I believe further talk about the Cairo conference will once again open the file on the population policy in Egypt, whose chief concern has been confined to the issue of birth control. On this occasion, we must come closer to the issue of economic development and the fight against poverty as proposed by the document of the Cairo conference (which is supported by Egyptian rulers). Consequently, a comparison must be made between their falsehood and how serious development can be accomplished from an Islamic perspective.

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Libya

Tripoli Protests to UN on 1990 U.S. Actions

LD1808145794 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] New York, August 18, JANA—The delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations sent a letter to the U.N. secretary general regarding the act of piracy committed by America repatriating by force Libyan Arab nationals on 7th of al Kanoun 1419 [7 December 1990] which constituted a violation of international customs and conventions and human right principles.

The delegate said in the letter: "America committed this terrorist act according to a premeditated plan for poiitical purposes in a manner showing the blatent hostile determination to commit this act which falls within the context of official state terrorism against the Great Jamahiriya through an attempt to lure Libyan Arab nationals and force them to commit acts which may disturb secruity and stability."

The letter pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah on 8 al Kanoun 1419 informed the U.N. secretary general that an American airforce C141 on the 7th. of al Kanoun 1419 airlifted 200 Libyan nationals who were working in Chad to an unknown destination.

The letter urged the U.N. secretary general to resume contacts to secure the return of the Libyan nationals to their homeland, families, and relatives and to consider the letter as an official document of the Security Council and distribute it to its members.

Secretaries Discuss Arab Economic Strategy

LD1708094694 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli (17 Aug) JANA—The secretary of the general people's committee for unity held a meeting last night with Dr. Hassan Ibrahim, the secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, who is currently visiting Libya.

During the meeting Arab economic strategy was discussed. It aims at achieving Arab economic integration and creating an Arab common market in implementation of the Arab economic unity agreement.

The secretary general's visit is aimed at boosting Arab power through the unionist initiative as Libya is involved in a number of economic integration agreements with Arab countries.

Libya was the first Arab country which committed itself to the granting of pan Arab citizenship rights. Arab citizens enjoy the right to movement, residence, employment and property as outlined in the Arab economic unity agreement.

Libya with a number of Arab countries is involved in joint investments aimed at utilising Arab money developing the Arab homeland.

Health Secretary Meets With Yugoslav Ambassador

LD1708153394 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli 17 Aug (JANA)—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security today met Dusan Simeonovic, the ambassador of Federal Yugoslavia accredited to Libya.

The meeting discussed the prospects for developing and advancing co-operative relations. It was decided to hold the Arab-Libyan/Yugoslavian joint committee meeting next month. Dusan Simeonovic reasserted the solidarity and support Of the Yugoslav people with the Arab-Libyan people against the unfair sanctions imposed by Western states by the so-called Security Council.

The ambassador paid Tribute to Co-Operative Relations between the two countries and confirmed the need to strengthen them.

Mauritania

'Severe Tension' Seen on Border as Troops Deployed

MM1808145794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Abdallah Ould Mohamedi: "Extensive Military Deployments on Mauritania-Mali Border"]

[Text] Nouakchott—Reliable Mauritanian sources confirmed yesterday the existence of severe tension in the border area between Mauritania and Mali. The reports said that the two sides were extensively deploying their forces because of the refugees and the "Azouad" [as transliterated] rebel problem. While an authoritative Mauritanian source denied the existence of any military deployments between the two countries, an official source in Mali said that the military deployments are aimed at protecting Mauritania's border against attacks. Mauritanian sources said that skirmishes had occurred between fighters of the "Azouad" movement, which includes Arab and Tuareg elements, and the Malian Army. The sources added that the Malian Army had deployed in strength across the area to monitor the movements of the Azouad rebels, who have recently redoubled their military operations.

The Malian Government accuses Mauritania of laxity in monitoring the rebels' movements. Mauritania denies the existence of any kind of "laxity." The Mauritanian sources point out that the Mauritanian Army presence in the area is designed to prevent any infiltration by rebel forces across the Mauritanian border.

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Sudan

Further Reportage on Extradition of 'Carlos'

Al-Bashir Insists No Deal Made

LD1808190894 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Video report by Didier Chauffier]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Khartoum, correspondent Didier Chauffier met the Sudanese President General 'Umar al-Bashir. He asked him under what circumstances he had decided to hand Carlos over:

[Begin recording] [al-Bashir in Arabic with superimposed French translation] I want to stress that there was no quid pro quo between France and Sudan for what I might call the handover of Carlos to the French authorities. I would point out quite simply that the French file on this individual was pretty full of the crimes he committed.

[Chauffier] Did France help you, in particular, with regard to the guerrilla war that is raging in the south of the country, in southern Sudan at the moment by providing you with technical help such as satellite photographs or by allowing you to pass through the Central African Republic?

[Bashir] Everyone knows that there is absolutely no military cooperation between Sudan and your country. [end recording]

Legality Confirmed

EA1808215594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The high court judge and spokesman of the judiciary, 'Abd-al-Rahman Sharfi, affirmed that all conditions that govern the extradition of criminals had been considered in the case of Illich Ramirez, better known as Carlos, under international agreements that the Sudan signed. In a statement, Sharfi added that according to shari'ah law, conditions of seeking refuge are not applicable on terrorist Carlos, who entered the Sudan on a forged passport and visa.

Iranian Role Reported

NC1808212994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM devotes the front page of Friday's issue to "the full story" of the relationship between the Sudanese regime and international terrorist Carlos. It reviews "the complete file" of Carlos' activity in Khartoum and his ties with the leaders of the al-Turabi regime that rules Sudan.

The newspaper's Chief Editor Ibrahim Naf'i discloses that Egyptian authorities have access to videocassettes on Carlos activities in Khartoum and that Egypt exchanged relevant information with some international security agencies cooperating with Egypt in the fight against terrorism.

Nafi' stresses that Sudan brought in hired terrorist Carlos in line with the policy of al-Turabi's regime, which opened up Sudan to terrorists of every color and race, not only to those who called themselves Muslim fundamentalists. Leading terrorists from far left to far right have been used to help al-Turabi implement his schemes.

AL-AHRAM says Cairo obtained definitive information that international terrorist Carlos had been in Sudan for several months. It says the Khartoum Government brought him from abroad as part of its conspiratorial designs.

The paper says that early this year, a notification from quarters watching international terror activity said that a person that goes by the Arab name 'Abdallah Barakat had been received at Khartoum airport by a Sudanese public security officer amid strict security measures and in an atmosphere of secrecy. It did not occur to the Sudanese authorities that the movements of suspect terrorists are accurately being watched by the most modern equipment.

It became clear, the paper goes on to say, that a special relationship existed between the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime and 'Abdallah Barakat (Carlos). The latter made frequent visits to the Sudanese Intelligence Agency, especially to a person called Nafi' and a number of his aides. Carlos also visited Hasan al-Turabi at his home.

The paper points out that Carlos enjoyed some kind of immunity during his activity in Sudan, and that he used to carry a personal weapon almost publicly, while escorted by two Sudanese guards.

He also used to drink at the parties he frequented, even though the Sudanese regime claims to be eager to implement the Islamic shari'ah in full.

The paper says al-Turabi personally intervened to solve a problem between Carlos and a Sudanese woman with whom he had an affair.

AL-AHRAM further says that Carlos, accompanied by a senior officer, frequented Sudanese Armed Forces colleges and academies under the pretext of teaching a course on strategy.

AL-AHRAM explains that the Sudanese regime did not hand over the international terrorist to France on its own initiative or because it loves or defends the West. It did so in accordance with the "jurisprudence of necessity" [fiqh al-darurah], which Hasan al-Turabi, the actual ruler of Sudan, follows. The Khartoum regime had to extradite Carlos after France, the main party concerned with the Carlos case due to his proven involvement in the criminal killing of a number of Frenchmen, confronted it with extensive evidence.

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The paper says that before the extradition of Carlos, a controversy broke out among the officials of the Sudanese regime, with some insisting on keeping him while making excuses. Al-Turabi, however, decided the matter, saying that the end justifies the means, and that the extradition would yield positive results for the regime. One of these results, al-Turabi believes, is that the regime will emerge exonerated of the unjustly leveled accusations that it is involved in terrorist crimes. The paper stresses that this shows the naive thinking of al-Turabi and his henchmen, who are isolating themselves from the world, unaware that the world has grown like a small village where nothing can be hidden or obliterated.

AL-AHRAM says that according to fresh and extremely accurate information—which al-Turabi may not have conveyed to most officials in Sudan—Iran was the party that forced Sudan to hand over Carlos to France. This was part of a recent deal between the two sides, whereby Sudan hands Carlos over to France in return for France extraditing two Iranian leaders to Iran.

The paper says many observers confirm this information. They note Iran's major financial and oil influence in Sudan as a result of the coordination between the two countries in terror schemes. Iran, therefore, can dictate to the Khartoum leaders, who agreed to extradite Carlos to France. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM says that although Egypt had certain information that Carlos had been in Sudan for several months, it remained silent and created no fuss to harm the reputation of al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime and prove its involvement in terrorism. Egypt did so despite the challenges of the Sudanese regime and its allegations that no one had incriminating evidence against it. [passage omitted]

New Chief Justice Sworn In

EA1808175294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Summary] Ubayd Hajj 'Ali was sworn in this morning before Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, as chief justice, succeeding Mr. Jalal 'Ali Lutfi, who had reached retirement age.

Rebel Morale Reportedly 'Collapsed'

EA1808173594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpts] (Okong Nikang Adeng), a captain returning from the rebel movement, who was a commander in the signals corps of the movement of the United Faction and a leader of the movement's delegation in earlier negotiations concerning the opening of river corridors in the south, has confirmed that morale has collapsed in the rebellion's ranks, and that thousands are on their way to surrender themselves.

In an interview with the radio, he said that the revolution's statements and its procedure for establishing peace, as well as the division of states under federal rule, were the main things that convinced him to return. [passage omitted]

He pointed out there was a collapse in morale among the small bands of the rebellion in the face of victories by the Armed Forces and the people's defense, and because of the spread of disease in the camps and acute shortages of provisions, equipment, and food.

Rebels Reportedly Surrendering, Returning to South

EA1808175694 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Southern Kordofan State is witnessing a continuing influx of returnees from various areas of the state. More than 200 rebels surrendered their arms in the rural areas, more than 500 others in (Fujuriyyah), and more than 150 in Dilling from the two tribes of (Jalad-Mutaymin) during recent days. People are returning to the town of Kaduqli at a rate of 200 to 250 daily. The areas of (Arria, Umm Buram, al-Ihaymir, al-Sayt, al-Asmur) are witnessing a similar return, at a rate of around 300 daily.

The department of peace and resettlement in southern Kordofan explained that recently it had received more than (?36,000) returnees, and had opened nine medical centers to provide free medicine and vaccinations for children. It is also trying to provide subsidized food, and to set up mills and water stations.

Tunisia

Iraqi Foreign Under Secretary Arrives on Visit

JN1508132094 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 15 aug 94

[Text] Tunis, Aug 15, INA—Iraqi Foreign Minister Undersecretary Sa'd al-Faysal arrived here yesterday on a three days visit to Tunisia.

Mr. al-Faysal will meet some officials in the Tunisian Minstry of Foreign Affairs to brief them on the latest developments of the Iraq-UN Security Council relations and discuss bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Arrives From Morocco

LD1808184494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1814 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 18 Aug—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Tunis today, as personal envoy of the brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi], to meet with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia. [passage omitted]

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Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi left Rabat earlier today at the end of a visit to brotherly Morocco, during which he conveyed an invitation to King Hassan II to attend the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the Great 1 September revolution. [passage omitted]

Military Observers To Be Sent to Rwanda

LD1808191194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tunisia's contribution to the UN Mission in Rwanda, UNIMAR-2, was the subject of President Ben Ali's meeting this morning at Carthage Palace with National Defense Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia. The head of state and supreme commander of the armed forces has decided to send military observers to Rwanda [word indistinct] at the UN's request.

Furthermore, the president has issued orders to speed up the special arrangements and measures in connection with the movement to Rwanda of the Tunisian military battalion that will be stationed in Rwanda under UNIMAR-2 within the framework of cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU, so as provide the best conditions for Tunisia's contribution to aid and assistance to this brotherly African country.

President Ben Ali, president of the OAU, reiterated Tunisia's eagerness to fully assume its responsibilities regarding the implementation of what was decided during the OAU Tunis summit on the need for African countries to contribute effectively to dealing with issues and crises affecting the African continent, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations.

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Qatar

Amir Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

LD1808190294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1819 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, as a personal envoy of the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi].

The Qatari news agency reports that Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi conveyed a message to the amir of Qatar from the brother leader of the revolution.

Saudi Arabia

Former Diplomat Says King Seeks Regional Chaos

TA1808125494 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 18 Aug 94 p 9

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] "Saudi Arabia is launching a struggle aimed at internationalizing Jerusalem in a bid to strip Israel, Jordan, and the PLO of control over the Islamic holy sites. In this holy war, it will resort to any means, including aid to radical Muslim terrorist elements, because the Riyadh regime is in the hands of a corrupt bunch of people who are capable of anything." These remarks were made in a conversation with MA'ARIV by former Saudi diplomat Muhammad al-Qhilaywi, who defected to the West and is now waging a struggle with the U.S. immigration authorities to receive refugee status.

I met al-Qhilaywi in the course of his brief visit to Washington to garner support in Congress for his struggle. Later we had a long telephone conversation, with him calling my office from his place of hiding, fearful of assassination attempts against him and his family by Saudi agents. After the conversation, al-Qhilaywi agreed to hand over some of the documents he had taken during his service in senior positions with the Saudi Administration for publication in MA'ARIV. [passage omitted]

"Under King Fahd, Saudi Arabia has become dangerous to its own and world peace, what with its readiness to lend a hand to any plot and evil partnership in a bid to promote the interests of the regime. One of the goals of King Fahd and the group surrounding him is to get hold of nuclear weapons in order to bolster the regime's power and influence.

"One of the countries with which it cooperated on this matter is Iraq. The cooperation began after the Iraqi nuclear reactor was destroyed by Israel, and it grew toward the late 1980's, prior to the Kuwait invasion and the onset of the Gulf war. I, myself, participated in one of the late-night meetings held in the vicinity of the Saudi-Iraqi border. In the course of the meeting, the Saudis gave the Iraqis technical items used for manufacturing nuclear weapons, which they had secured through their contacts in the West, and they gave them $300 million as an advance on the Saudi plan to aid Iraq's nuclear project, which was supposed to total $3 billion. The participants in the meeting further agreed on an exchange of technological information and on intelligence cooperation to promote the joint nuclear plans.

"The Saudis allocated the vast sum of $25 billion for their nuclear project. The money was earmarked for independent nuclear research and development and, in parallel, for the purchase of bombs and nuclear expertise from third countries, such as Iraq, China, Brazil, and Argentina. King Fahd has been trying to ruin everything for Israel, Egypt, and even Iran, because he is afraid of any political change in the region and because he believes that chaos serves his purpose."

Al-Qhilaywi stresses that he knows what he is talking about, having been involved in a attempt to cover up the nuclear activity in his capacity as a member of an advance delegation to the convention for the prevention of nuclear arms proliferation slated to be held in 1995.

The documents handed over for publication in MA'ARIV include extensive correspondence between King Fahd's adviser, Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sa'ud, through his Pittsburgh office, and Hou Zhi-zhong, a representative of the PRC nuclear industries. In one of the documents sent during the purchase of a small nuclear instruction and research reactor, Hou offered Prince al-Sa'ud a personal commission amounting to 5 percent of the price of the purchase. Al-Qhilaywi points to this letter as one piece of evidence of the Saudi regime's corruption.

[In a box alongside the Bar-Yosef report, MA'ARIV has reproduced a photocopy of a document in English bearing the partially visible letterhead of a Chinese corporation in Beijing. The document is dated January 10, 1989 and reads as follows, with personal names and punctuation as they appear in the reproduction:

["OFFICE OF HRH PRINCE ABDEL RAHMAN AL SAUD

["PITTSBURGH, U.S.A.

["Dear Sir:

["It is my pleasure to read your telex dated January 4, 1989, As for your request, we have prepared the brochures and documents about MNSR [expansion unknown] together with quotations.

["We never contacted with [blank space]. As we have explained to you before, we can do business in nuclear fields. And we have no gentleman's agreement with any foreign company.

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["About commission per reactor, we would like to give you five percent of total amount of costs of reactor.

["We are looking forward to meeting you in Beijing.

["We hope we would have a bright future in collaboration.

["Yours sincerely,

["Hou Zhi Zhong"]

In his conversation with MA'ARIV, al-Qhilavwi stressed Saudi Arabia's negative role in the Middle East peace process, most notably after the Israeli-Jordanian agreement:

"Peace means progress and democratization. Democratization means elections and the elimination of the Saudi regime. Riyadh will make every effort to put an end to the political process. It is trying to disrupt the multilateral talks, in which Saudi Arabia is a formal participant, and, at the same time, is launching projects to aid Islamic terrorist organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah, which act against Israel and other peace- supporting, moderate Arab countries.

"In addition, Saudi Arabia has used the ICO, Islamic Conference Organization, which is based in Jeddah, to launch a plan designed to internationalize Jerusalem at the end of the process in a bid to seize control of the holy sites from Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians." [passage omitted]

Yemen

Further on Alleged Link With 'Carlos'

MM1808104494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Continues To Uncover Yemeni Element in Secrets of International Terrorist Story: Carlos Blackmailed Yemen, So It Deported Him to Iraq"]

[Text] London—Controversy continues over the international terrorist Carlos' link with Yemen, the circumstances surrounding his last visit to Sanaa, and the refusal to receive him there "because he was trying to blackmail it," and his deportation to Iraq.

While official sources say that the link between the two sides was never direct at any point, sources that were close to the authorities in the past say that Carlos lived in a private house in Aden, and that there were training camps involving a group belonging to him. They also pointed out that he used to move between Yemen and Hungary.

A source close to the Yemeni Government in Sanaa explained to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone the circumstances surrounding Carlos' last visit to Yemen. He said it "took place in the summer of 1991." He could not remember in which month, but he said it was probably "July or August."

The source added that Syrian security authorities put Carlos and his wife on a Yemeni plane at Damascus airport, and Yemeni officials were surprised by his arrival in Sanaa, so they refused to allow him to leave the airport. So he and his wife remained in the transit area for more than 10 days, while contacts were being made with Syrian authorities to return him, but Damascus determinedly refused.

The source said that Carlos and his wife, who was either heavily pregnant or had a baby with her, were badly treated during the waiting period until Iraqi authorities agreed to receive them in Baghdad, "so he was returned to the Jordanian capital, Amman, and then to Baghdad by land."

The source pointed out that Carlos claimed that the reason for his visit to Sanaa was to demand the rest of the fees for the attempt to assassinate Ibrahim al-Wazir. He accused Yemeni authorities of snubbing him, according to reports leaked at the time. But Sanaa completely refused to broach the issue, denying any link with him.

The source stressed that diplomatic sources in Britain and the United States knew of Carlos' presence in Sanaa airport, and that they submitted protests to Yemen, demanding his extradition. But it was too late and Carlos had been deported to Jordan and then Iraq. So Yemeni authorities issued an official denial of his presence on their territory.

A Yemeni source has denied any direct link between the Yemeni authorities and Carlos. The source said that this applies to the southern authorities before unity. The source added that "they used him indirectly via Palestinian organizations in the seventies and the eighties, or via East European security organs."

The source broached the issue of the South Yemeni passport Carlos was holding, saying that "Democratic Yemen [al-yaman al-dimuqratiyah] provided some Palestinian organizations with quantities [kammiyyat] of diplomatic passports to issue when necessary, and it seems that the two passports issued for Carlos and his wife were from among these passports."

The source said that "a direct relationship developed between Carlos and Sanaa's security services after unity, but it lasted for a short time then was broken off."

The source added that "all those terrorists turned into mercenaries and specialized in blackmail operations in their last days."

Link Denied

JN1808142494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Yemeni Presidential Council in Sanaa today denied any connections with the terrorist Carlos. It

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accused the Yemeni Socialist Party of having had a strong relationship with him before 1990. The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', cited a security source as saying that it is a principled stand by the Republic of Yemen to reject, denounce, and combat terrorism from any source. The source pointed out that since the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990, the terrorist Carlos has had nothing to do with the state's official agencies. The same source refuted reports that Carlos resided in a suite in the Presidential Palace in Sanaa and met with President 'Ali Abdallah Salih.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday reported that Carlos had connections with Sanaa and published a photo of a southern Yemeni passport that it said Carlos had used under the name 'Abd-Rabbuh 'Ali Muhammad. [passage omitted]

Aden Demonstrators Demand Leadership's Return

MM1808141294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hammud Munsir and Lutfi Shararah: "Limited Demonstrations in Aden; Salih Contacts Southern Leaders"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, London—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that limited demonstrations took place in Aden last Saturday in the wake of a quarrel between northerners and residents of the city. Demonstrators demanded the southern leadership's return. Security forces intervened immediately, dispersing the demonstrators. While President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih urged southern leaders and "misled military men" to return to Yemen, southern sources said that he is trying split their ranks, starting with the Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources have said that the Yemeni president had two telephone conversations late the day before yesterday with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, southern vice president and leader of the Sons of Yemen League party, and Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, southern prime minister and member of the Socialist Party Political Bureau, during which he urged them to return to Yemen.

Southern sources said they do not trust the Yemeni president's promises. With regard to his warning about "the fifth column trying to steal the victory," they said that he told his allies in the Yemeni Reform Grouping that he meant those who participated in the war and told southerners that he meant the Reform Grouping.

The sources cited arrivals from Aden as saying that "incidents in which northerners are killed in the city occur almost daily. Some of them occur spontaneously during quarrels between northerners and southerners because of chaos and the lack of state influence." [passage omitted]

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Foreign Minister Leaves for Pakistan, PRC

JN1808140394 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 (INA) [dateline as received]—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has today left Baghdad on an official tour taking him to Pakistan on a working visit and then to visit China on several days in response to an official invitation from the Chinese deputy foreign minister.

The Iraqi minister would have intensive talks with his Chinese counterpart and other officials in the government on the latest developments of the situation at the UN Security Council concerning the issue of lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and what additional efforts China could exert to support Iraq's just stance demanding the Security Council to implement the Item 22 of Resolution 687 after Iraq had fulfilled all its commitments stipulated in the said resolution.

The Iraqi foreign minister would also conduct talks with the Pakistani's side about the same issue particularly in the light of the increase in supporting Iraq's legal and humanitarian demand in that the Security Council fulfills its obligations towards Iraq according to provisions of the Resolution 687.

Mr. al-Sahhaf tour comes at the time while the UN Security Council is getting ready to hold its periodic reviewing siting [as received] on its attitude versus the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The Iraqi minister would discuss with the Chinese and Pakistani sides the ways of enhancing bilateral relations in achievement of expanding bilateral cooperation and in the manner serving mutual benefits particularly after the blockade is lifted.

Accompanying the minister in his tour is Mr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri the ministry's undersecretary and the industry senior undersecretary and a number of officials.

British Parliamentarian: Blockade 'Inhuman'

JN1808141494 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Hadi Mahmud and Nazirah Nadim]

[Excerpt] Baghdad—Two figures from France and Britain have called for an immediate lifting of the blockade clamped on the Iraqi people because it conflicts with the principles of human rights and deprives an entire people of their right to a prosperous and progressive life. These two figures described the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continuation of this blockade as saddening and painful.

British Parliamentarian David Steele described the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade as inhuman.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he said that during his visit to a number of Iraqi hospitals, he realized the extent of the suffering of the elderly, children, and women as a result of the shortage of medicines and food covered by the blockade.

He noted that he will send reports and recommendations to the British Government and the United Nations on the tragic situation in Iraq.

Sir David Steele, a former leader of the British Liberal Democratic Party, and who is also expected to assume the post of the chairman of the International Liberal Organization, said that during his three-day visit to Iraq, he held talks with a number of Iraqi officials. The objective of the visit, he added, is to learn about the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade clamped on them.

He added that these talks and tours have provided him with a clear picture of the humanitarian and economic situation, and that he will convey this to the British Government and people. [passage omitted]

Writer on 'Dirty New Game To Blackmail Iraq'

JN1808154894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "They Fabricate and We Chant: Long Live Palestine, Free and Arab"]

[Text] Experts and researchers in the United States and Europe are unanimous that the U.S. Government will, within the next few months—particularly after the expiration of the period set by the United Nations to test the monitoring system—admit a bitter fact; namely, that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq must be lifted since Iraq has implemented all the UN resolutions, especially since the UN Special Commission and the UN Security Council's permanent member states, except America, have already admitted this. This means that the attempts to maintain the blockade on Iraq for political reasons will utterly fail.

In light of this, we see that the United States and certain agent Gulf regimes are exerting immense efforts to fabricate crises and to create facts in order to accuse Iraq of refusing to implement the UN resolutions, just as what happened yesterday in the fabricated incident in the Safwan region, which is part of a series of premeditated and preplanned actions against Iraq. The attempts to obstruct efforts to lift the blockade also include a new kind of blackmail. The end of 1993 witnessed moves to achieve reconciliation between the Zionist entity and certain Arab sides. At that time, it was said that this is happening at this particular time because Iraq is paralyzed and isolated, and that this situation can be exploited to peddle agreements which would certainly not have been peddled if the Arab situation were normal.

Based on this, some writers and officials in certain Arab states began to either call on Iraq to bless the peace steps or to link the lifting of the blockade to Iraq's support for these steps. This shows that America and the Zionists are

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playing a dirty new game to blackmail Iraq. The game reached its peak when certain sides claimed that Iraq has agreed to the normalization steps.

The objective of this is clear: If Iraq denies this, America will then say that Iraq is against the peace moves in the region, and therefore, it still poses a threat that necessitates maintaining the blockade. However, if Iraq remains silent, the normalization processes will pass amid convictions here and there that Iraq has concluded a "silent deal," and therefore, other sides will join the reconciliation process and the despair of the masses, who were not asked about their opinions regarding what has taken place and what is taking place, will increase. Thus, darkness will fall and the Iraqi beacon will falter, God forbid.

The game is serious and dirty. However, the Iraqi people, who started history and civilizations, carried divine messages, and who toppled Bush and his "new world order," are chanting with leader Saddam Husayn words included in his excellency's speech on the great victory day: Long Live Palestine, Long Live Palestine, and God is great.

Chaldean Patriarch Supports Contacts With Israel

JN1808182994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Reports from Beirut have mention that (Rufa'el I Badawid), the patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic community in Baghdad stated in Beirut that he supports peace in the Middle East, adding it is time to end this tragedy which has been going on for 50 years.

The Chaldean patriarch said he hopes there is some substance to the rumors that speak about secret contacts between the Iraqis and the Israelis. He affirmed that his community supports the Vatican with respect to Jerusalem and the recently-established relations between Israel and the Vatican.

Hard Currency Said Saved Due to Self-Reliance

JN1808150594 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA—Staff of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and Military Industry Commission have saved the country huge amounts of hard currency totalled up to some 321 million dollars over the past two years.

According to Minister of Industry and Minerals General Husayn Kamil Hasan that the Ministry's staff have managed to reduce waste and rationalize the use of raw materialls.

General Hasan, who is also in charge of overseeing Military Industry Commission, added that the staff of the Ministry and the Commission have executed a number of projects over the said period by depending on local-made replacement parts and Iraqi know-how, noting that work on the said projects had come to a standstill following the departure of the foreign companies due to the imposition of the trade embargo and U.S.-led military aggression on Iraq in 1991.

Minister said staff of the Military Industry Commission are currently working to execute giant plant which is to be the biggest in iraq.

The plant, named as the Iraqi plant, will be specialised in manufacturing specialised machinery and equipment to help boost the industrial sector.

The commission's staff, moreover, have started work to execute a project for the production of copper threads, said General Hasan, noting that the said project will be the first of its kind in Iraq.

In the meantime, the staff have recently compiled studies and researches of a number of projects including fire bricks, fertilizers and tv and broadcasting towers, said the minister.

He added that the coming year will witness the manufacture of Iraqi lorries and agricultural tractors of sizes larger than al-Nida' tractor which was the first to be manufactured by Iraqi engineers.

On other development, Ministry of Housing and Construction has saved some 333 million dinnars over the past two years.

Minister of Housing and Construction, Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad said prompted by President Saddam Husayn's message on August 12, 1992 in which he called for better utilization of Iraq's potentials, the Ministry's staff involved in a hard work to execute a number of housing and service projects by depending on the available potentials and locally-made replacement parts.

The minister added that the ministry has also formed a permanent committee to follow up the implementation of projects and define priorities and methods of execution.

According to Mr al-Ahmad, over the period from August 12, 1992 to June 30, 1994, the ministry's staff have saved some 144,046,000 Iraqi dinars by relying on locally-made replacement parts and materials.

Moreover, the ministry's staff have managed to save 84,476,000 dinars by repairing and modifying out-of-order machinery and equipment, whereas they saved some ID 21,476,000 through cutting down on expenditure, said the minister.

In the meantime, the ministry's staff repaired some 9609 machinery and equipment, reduced costs of execution of a number of projects, the minister noted.

Minister Offers To Back Private Industrial Sector

JN1808161194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Pursuant to leader President Saddam Husayn's order to stimulate and promote the private industrial

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sector and to ensure its requirements and means of production, Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], has announced the adoption of several measures to develop this sector by backing it with expertise and facilities in order to enhance its role in Iraq.

During an expanded meeting with industrialists, financiers, and businessmen, Gen. Hasan underscored the private industrial sector's contribution to the defeat of the unfair blockade that has been imposed on our people by improving and increasing its production capacity, especially in the field of engineering industries.

Gen. Hasan said that public sector enterprises, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the MIO are ready to provide the private sector with all the means of production it needs in order to improve the quality of its production so that it will become an active factor in the industrial boom now witnessed by the country.

Gen. Hasan called on the industrialists, financiers, and businessmen to establish industrial projects and to invest in the raw materials available locally in order to turn them into national products in the local market and to avoid the method of quick profiteering by improving production in quantity and quality.

The meeting, which was attended by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the MIO, several advisers from the presidential office, the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the directors general at the ministry and MIO, and a large number of industrialists, financiers, and businessmen from the private sector, witnessed an open dialogue during which the participants dealt with the situation of industry in the country and the means of developing and reorganizing it with the view to setting a up a modern industrial base.

Fifteen Killed in Renewed Clashes Between Kurds

NC1808154694 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 18 (AFP)—At least 15 people have been killed in fresh clashes between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, opposition officials said Thursday [18 August].

Members of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) were battling forces loyal to Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the pro-Iranian Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) in Qal'at Dizah, a town some 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Iraq-Iran border, the sources said.

A temporary ceasefire was broken Tuesday and 15 people were killed in the latest fighting, according to members of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an opposition coalition.

Hundreds have been killed since May in fighting between the PUK and KDP, which are allied in their opposition to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The rival groups are fighting for control of Iraqi Kurdistan, an area of northern Iraq seized by the Kurds after an uprising which followed the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

Last week 43 people were killed and 63 wounded in fighting between the PUK and KIL in Qal'at Dizah, hospital officials said.

A drive to broker peace between the rival factions was making slow progress, said Ghanim Jawad of the INC, which has been was monitoring the process.

"It has become very difficult to rebuild trust and confidence between the two parties. So a small quarrel is enough to produce new clashes," he said.

The PUK and KDP announced an agreement in Paris on July 23 to stop fighting.

Al-Sulaymaniyah city governor and PUK member Salah 'Aziz said Iran was backing the KDP and KIL "in order to slow down the peace process."

But Bruska Shaways, a senior member of the KDP, said the PUK "wants to gain more access to the border before making peace."

He said the PUK only controlled two routes to Iran, and all the others, including one leading to Turkey, were controlled by the KDP.

"Border access means taxes and money which the PUK needs to pay its newly-reinforced troops," Shaways said.

Radio Reports PUK Attacks in Qal'at Dizah

JN1808195594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Qal'at Dizah—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] forces have, regrettably, continued their attacks against the positions of our party's forces and those of the Islamic Movement over the past two days. The attacks lasted until the morning of 17 August, resulting in losses of life on both sides.

While we regret the continuation of these incidents, we call for a full commitment to the decisions the Parliament adopted on 15 August by halting all military operations, and devoting attention to the implementation of the normalization decisions and the restoration of stability and peace.

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Peres: Peace Not Possible Without Golan Withdrawal

TA1808193694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Video report by Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that he does not believe peace with Syria is possible without an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Anyone who says that Israel must retain the Golan Heights even if peace is achieved is passing up the peace process. The remarks by the foreign minister, who was speaking following his meeting with his Norwegian counterpart, run counter to statements made last night in Washington by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] The impression is that many people did not like Baraq's statements. They have caused a great deal of bewilderment. First of all, this is perhaps the first time that the chief of staff or an Israeli official at such a senior level is holding almost public discussions in Washington with the U.S. defense leadership on security arrangements on the Golan Heights. This is an unprecedented development, certainly with regard to the extensive media coverage it received. Among other things, in addition to holding talks and hinting that something is indeed cooking although nothing big has actually happened, Chief of Staff Baraq publicly stated that Israel is discussing security arrangements on the Golan Heights with the Americans or, in other words, that things are moving forward. On the other hand, Baraq asserted that Israel must retain control of the Golan Heights even after peace is achieved. I asked Foreign Minister Peres for his reaction to Chief of Staff Baraq's assertion that Israel should remain on the Golan Heights even in peacetime:

[Peres] I do not know exactly what the chief of staff said, but my reply is very simple. Can we achieve peace without movement on the Golan Heights? This is really the problem. The question is not whether we should withdraw from the Golan Heights or, more precisely, from parts of it. The question is whether we should pass up the peace process. Since I do not believe that we can achieve peace without there being some movement—to put it very frankly—on the Golan Heights, I do not think that we should give up the chance to reach peace. [end recording]

Peres on PLO Responsibility To Maintain Security

TA1908064094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein on 19 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] I spoke with the foreign minister about an hour ago. My first question to Mr. Peres was: What is the most urgent issue on our agenda with the Palestinians one year after the Oslo agreement?

[Peres] Security in the territories is the central issue, as far as we are concerned. This is one issue on which we will not compromise. Just as we are responsible for external security, the Palestinian Authority is responsible for internal security, and both sides have to adhere to their commitments. On the other hand, we would like to assist the Palestinians economically.

[Einstein] Do you believe they are not doing enough to prevent the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror?

[Peres] No, they are not doing enough. There is a problem with all kinds of terror, not just Hamas. Clearly, he ['Arafat] has an obligation in this respect.

[Einstein] Yet even when we ruled the area, we were hardly successful in fully wiping out terrorism. Why do we expect 'Arafat and the PLO to do a perfect job?

[Peres] We are not demanding a 100-percent success, we are demanding a 100-percent effort. We made a 100-percent effort ourselves, and although we were not always fully successful, no one could claim that we did not do all we could to stem terror.

[Einstein] Do the Palestinians have the necessary resources to do what it takes to combat terror?

[Peres] We expect them to start by employing whatever resources they do have. Antiterror activity greatly depends on intelligence, and by the nature of things, the Palestinians have more information about what goes on in their midst than we do.

[Einstein] Are they adequately cooperating with our security elements?

[Peres] I do not want to answer such questions, because remarks on these matters can be interpreted in all kinds of ways. I will say that we are closely monitoring the developments, and we are not demanding the impossible. What we demand is definitely possible.

[Einstein] Are you more concerned with Yasir 'Arafat's public refusal to condemn Hamas and to explicitly pledge to act against terrorism?

[Peres] I do not think this is exactly what he said. He said he will act against terror, but not against Hamas. I think it was sophistry on his part, because Hamas is the cause of terror. He did speak against terror several times in the past, and we know that he has ordered his organization to stay away from terror. Yet today he is not the head of an organization, he is the head of an authority, and he is in charge of a territory, not just a party.

[Einstein] Is the release of Palestinian prisoners liable to be delayed by the Palestinians' difficulties in combating terror?

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[Peres] We work without ultimatums as a rule, and we think each side should fulfill its part of the DOP [Declaration of Principles], as agreed. There is no need to constantly resort to ultimatums. Every issue stands on its own, and every issue must be executed as agreed, no more and no less.

[Einstein] I assume that 'Arafat will complain, at your meeting today, that the funds pledged to the Palestinian Authority have not been forthcoming as promised, and that the dire economic situation is liable to generate unrest. What will you say to ease his anxiety?

[Peres] The problem is not what I will say, but what should be done. I think that, as in any sphere, there are ways and means to overcome these difficulties. I think the PLO itself now realizes to some extent that it should start organizing if it wants to receive donors' funds. It is beginning to realize that the donors will not compromise on the matter of accountability. I believe a way will be found. [passage omitted]

Peres: Germany Should Support Palestinian Autonomy

AU1808164694 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 18 Aug 94 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Anne Ponger in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Ponger] What does Israel expect Germany to do in support of the peace process? Should PLO leader 'Arafat be given money under the current circumstances, or should he get credit guarantees? Should Germany invest in Palestinian autonomy?

[Peres] I think that the Germans should both invest in the autonomy and contribute to the financing of the current costs. Of course, the Palestinians must provide the usual controls: a certain degree of transparency and responsibility. But, in principle, the Germans should support the autonomy.

[Ponger] Your upcoming visit will also be a working visit to the European Union [EU]. Israel hopes to expand its agreements with the EU over the next few months. What does Israel expect from the EU under the present German presidency?

[Peres] At the beginning, when we forecasted a "new Middle East," our partners were very skeptical. Now they are beginning to understand that the dream is coming true. There will be an important international conference in Casablanca, Morocco in October that will discuss the economic structure of the "new Middle East" and in which EU representatives will participate. The German presidency will be important there both in political and economic terms. The Europeans are familiar with the natural link between exports and jobs. Exports can also boost the standard of living in the Middle East. The higher the standard of living, the lower people's preparedness to use violence. Another aspect is, of course, our bilateral relations with Brussels. Germany and Chancellor Kohl have acknowledged the necessity of including Israel in the European framework.

[Ponger] Israel imports goods worth over 4 billion marks [DM] from Germany per year, while Israel's exports to Germany are under DM1.5 billion. Why is there no major German investment in Israel apart from hotel construction?

[Peres] That is a real problem, and I do not know the answer. There have been talks with Daimler-Benz, who opened an office in Israel recently, and several other firms. But that is not enough. Comparing U.S. investment in Israel with German investment is quite frustrating. I hope we will find ways to put that right. Peace in the Middle East will create more security and confidence in that area as well.

[Ponger] You are going to a country that has been in the news a lot recently for right-wing extremist attacks on foreigners, anti- semitic incidents, and neo-Nazi demonstrations. What are your feelings for Germany with its excellent bilateral relations with Israel, on the one hand, and such incidents on the other?

[Peres] We are not prepared to make any compromise on signs of discrimination, Nazi ideologies, and violence anywhere in the world. But this is not a Jewish problem, but something that concerns the Germans. I know that many German politicians are very worried. We can only support all responsible forces in fighting the phenomenon at an early stage and advise them to convince the world that a new Germany exists.

[Ponger] Plutonium dealers are using Germany as a transit country. You will certainly want to discuss this problem in Germany.

[Peres] Of course. That is a terrible story! I know that the Germans are just as concerned as we are about the uncontrolled production of the most dangerous, most lethal weapon in the world. We will have to consider joint efforts to reduce that threat.

[Ponger] Germany has good relations with Iran. German politicians say that in dealing with Tehran they never forget what they owe to their friends in the United States and Israel. Do you agree? Does Israel profit from German-Iranian contacts? Are there for instance signs of Iran acknowledging the peace process or any information on missing flight navigator Ron Arad?

[Peres] Nothing of that sort. Iran must be forced to understand that it cannot continue its present policy of terrorism, subversion, murdering, and bomb attacks. We are much closer to the U.S. position of dual containment, curbing both Iran and Iraq, than we are to the German position that counts on a so-called promotion of moderate forces.

[Ponger] The peace process between Israel and Syria seems to be gaining momentum. Jerusalem seems to be

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prepared to withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for a solid peace with Damascus. But in order to make peace with Lebanon, Israel needs guarantees from Syria that it is willing and able to prevent Hezbollah attacks on northern Israel. Do you see any chance that this might happen?

[Peres] At the moment, Lebanon is completely under Syrian influence. Talks on the future of Lebanon are part of the peace negotiations with Syria. There is no other definition of the term peace than an end to war, terrorism, and hostility. That is the minimum requirement. And that is why we want to be convinced that peace and quiet will also prevail on our northern borders.

[Ponger] Are there no contacts between the United States and Iran over this issue at least?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. As far as I know, the United States is keeping strictly to its dual containment policy: curbing Iran and not forgiving Iraq.

[Ponger] Has the United States not made any offers to Iran for ending the financial and military support to the Hezbollah in southern Lebanon?

[Peres] No. The Americans know that Iran would only take but give nothing in return.

[Ponger] Talks on a further transfer of powers to the Palestinians and preparations for the first elections started at a time when developments in the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho were still going slow and disappointing. You have always been optimistic. Do you still see a light at the end of the tunnel?

[Peres] The answer must definitely be yes. We expect the Palestinians to adopt the necessary measures for fighting terrorism effectively. During the past few days, we have made a lot of progress in our talks on authority transfer. We will go on negotiating—until we achieve a successful conclusion.

[Ponger] Israeli, as well as Palestinian and Jordanian, media have carried reports on attempts to include Iraq in the peace process. There have been allegations of a confidential meeting between an official of the Iraqi Defense Ministry and Israeli representatives; and the Iraqi UN representative is said to have asked for a meeting with the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. Is that right?

[Peres] These reports are completely unfounded. We have no intention of establishing any contacts with Baghdad. Iraq continues to be governed by a most dangerous person: Saddam Husayn is an entirely untrustworthy personality.

[Ponger] But might the Iraqis have tried to approach Israel because they want to break free of their isolation?

[Peres] I do not know anything about this. You see, people keep making up sensational reports all the time. This should not be taken too seriously.

Saudis Included in Satellite Project Over Objections

TA1808163094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Despite objections from Israel and the CIA, the United States has authorized EARED, a Saudi company, to participate in the production of a reconnaissance satellite.

Upon the completion of the project, in 1996, Saudi Arabia will purchase the satellite for approximately $200 million.

The Saudi company has joined a project launched by Litton Itek GDE Systems [subsidiary of Litton Industries], a U.S. firm, as an investor. A subsidiary of Litton Itek is manufacturing the satellite, which is called Eyeglass.

The Saudi participation in the project has been the cause of sharp arguments between the CIA and the U.S. Army, which objected to including the Saudis, and the U.S. Department of Trade, which supported their participation.

The Department of Trade ultimately prevailed and authorized the Saudi company's participation in the project.

According to the agreement signed between the U.S. company and Saudi Arabia, the latter is prohibited from using the satellite for military purposes.

The Saudis signed a commitment to restrict their use of the satellite to civilian purposes. They claim to need a satellite to carry out civilian projects, such as building cities and searching for oil. Nevertheless, senior U.S. Army officers and CIA officials have expressed concern that Saudi Arabia will not uphold its commitment.

The Saudis asserted that the satellite would be stationed over Riyadh. According to senior officials in the CIA and in Israel, the satellite will be capable of taking photographs over a wide range of 2,000 miles or approximately 3,500 km in each direction.

The senior Israeli officials also noted that Israel is opposed to the Saudis' participation in the project because Riyadh has been hindering and attempting to disrupt the peace process. They claim that Saudi representatives to the regional arms control committee have adopted extreme positions and torpedoed various proposals for regional cooperation.

The senior officials also complained that Saudi Arabia has not yet responded to the UN request for a report on its weapons sales and purchases.

Disagreement 'Likely To Escalate'

TA1908110594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Aug 94 p 4

["Analysis" by Gerald M. Steinberg]

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[Text] Saudi Arabia's efforts to gain access to a highly accurate photo-satellite from the United States may trigger a conflict reminiscent of the 1981 AWACS affair. As in the case of the AWACS, the satellite project involves hundreds of millions of dollars, very sophisticated technology and the potential for major damage to Israel's national security.

The process began in early 1994, when the U.S. government approved a request to license the sale of remote-sensing satellite services and technology. For many years the costs of these systems, such as LANDSAT, grew, while competition from the French SPOT satellite, as well as Russian systems, cut revenues. The U.S. decided to privatize the development and operation of these satellites. Three firms, Litton-Itek, G.D.E., and Orbital Sciences, formed a consortium to build the EYGLASS satellite.

After beginning project development, this consortium found that the market was very limited. The Saudis decided to buy an equity stake, and the firms that are involved, as well as the U.S. Commerce Department, have an intense economic interest in keeping the Saudis in the project.

For Israel, the key issue is the potential strategic impact. With EYEGLASS, objects as small as one meter can be identified. (In comparison, the LANDSAT has a resolution of about 30 square meters.)

Although theoretically designed for civilian purposes, EYEGLASS will pick out and monitor planes parked on a runway, tanks, trucks, missiles, etc. It will also be able to monitor construction projects and traffic into and out of buildings. This will give the Saudi army, and other Arab military forces that will have access to the data, the ability to assess Israeli strengths and weaknesses, and to plan a precision first strike against bases, plants, and other facilities.

Defenders of the sale claim that the field of view of this satellite can be restricted through electronic "shutter control," but this is quite difficult, given the geography.

For many years, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Defense Ministry have sought to acquire an orbital capability to monitor activities in Iran and Iraq. The importance of an independent overhead reconnaissance capability was emphasized during the 1991 Gulf War, when Israel realized that the U.S. had almost no information on the Iraqi nuclear weapons program, and had failed to located mobile SCUD missile launchers. After the war, Defense Minister Moshe Arens revealed that the Ofek program was designed to produce a reconnaissance satellite. Although two test platforms have been launched successfully, an operational satellite will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and will require a major technological effort. According to reports, Israeli requests for American assistance and technology, or for cooperation in the area, have all been rebuffed.

The Israeli government can also be expected to note that in making the technology available to the Saudis, the U.S. government is violating pledges not to sell weapons or technology more advanced than that available to Israel. This pledge, which goes back tot the era of Nixon and Kissinger, was recently reiterated by President Clinton in meetings with Prime Minister Rabin.

In the AWACS case, the sale was eventually approved in a very narrow vote in the U.S. Senate, but only after a costly fight. Now, in the middle of the Middle East peace process, and with no other foreign policy successes, the Clinton administration cannot afford a similar battle. Unless Israel is convinced that the Saudi role in the EYGLASS project will not post a threat to its security, the conflict is likely to escalate.

Sarid on Prisoner Release, Early Empowerment

TA1808165894 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Studio interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Dan Margalit on the "New Evening" program—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Minister Yosi Sarid, just back from Alexandria, is here in our studio. Good evening.

[Sarid] Good evening.

[Margalit] We just heard that Yasir 'Arafat has said that Israel proposed to release all the Palestinian prisoners in exchange for a commitment that the collaborators who cooperated with Israel during the years of occupation would not be harmed. Is that what you proposed to 'Arafat?

[Sarid] To put it very delicately, this report is completely unfounded. It is without any basis whatsoever. We never made such a proposal. What really happened was that when we received reports about brutal behavior toward people described as collaborators, we called an abrupt halt to the negotiations on the release of prisoners. Now that we have received guarantees that the attitude toward collaborators will improve, these negotiations may resume. I can already tell you now, however, that the release of prisoners whose hands are tainted with the blood of either Israelis or Palestinians—and for us it is the same; we make no distinction between blood—is not on the agenda and definitely not in the cards in either the near or distant future.

[Margalit] Your delegation in Alexandria, which included Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as other officials....

[Sarid, interrupting] You mean that it included me. It was headed by the foreign minister and included me.

[Margalit] This delegation discussed terrorism, among other issues. We just heard Yasir 'Arafat say on the news that he will not fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]; he will talk to them or try to influence them. Does Israel consider that enough?

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[Sarid] I have no interest in 'Arafat's fighting Hamas. We do not foment tension and violence between the various Palestinian factions.

[Margalit] But he made a commitment to prevent terrorism.

[Sarid] Exactly. We want him to fight terrorism and the terrorists. Not all Hamas members are terrorists, and not all terrorists belong to Hamas. We will be satisfied if 'Arafat wages a ruthless war against terrorists, regardless of their origin.

[Margalit] But 'Arafat said he would not fight them.

[Sarid] I am referring to terrorists. 'Arafat said he would not fight Hamas. We are not asking him to fight Hamas; we asked him to fight against the terrorists, and this is something he will have to do, and I will tell you why.

[Margalit] Did you say this to Nabil Sha'th in Alexandria?

[Sarid] Certainly, in the most explicit terms.

[Margalit] So why did you not publish a joint communique? Today there was only a report about how Nabil Sha'th held a news conference in which he expressed reservations about terrorism. There was no joint PLO-Israeli communique, however.

[Sarid] There was no need for one. There is an explicit, written letter of commitment from the PLO chairman to our prime minister. In this letter, the PLO chairman made a commitment to eschew terrorism, combat it, and do his very best to eradicate this phenomenon. This commitment remains valid. Thus, when Nabil Sha'th said that he wanted to condemn terrorism and reiterate the PLO's commitment in the spirit of the letter sent to Rabin, we found this perfectly satisfactory. This posed no problem as far as we were concerned.

[Margalit] Minister Sarid, it was agreed that Israel would rapidly transfer early empowerment to the PLO in the field of education. There are also other fields, however, so why not implement early empowerment in them as well?

[Sarid] Early empowerment will be implemented in all five fields under discussion within a very short time. I will not say that this will be done within a matter of days, because I do not want to commit myself; however, it will definitely be completed within several weeks. We found it appropriate to transfer powers in the sphere of education for two reasons. The first is the importance of this issue. It is the most important of the five. Second, the new school year starts in a few days, and we wanted to send a positive signal by transferring this important field to the Palestinians prior to the beginning of the school year.

[Margalit] And is the delay in the other fields the result of the fact that the donor countries have still not transferred the funds to the PLO?

[Sarid] Yes, the donor countries have yet to even make a commitment. At the meeting in Alexandria yesterday, the PLO and Israel decided that we would jointly appeal to the donor countries, and we have reason to believe that their response will be positive.

[Margalit] And if that works out, then according to the Oslo agreement, we can expect elections in the territories. This will be preceded by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal to new positions in the territories.

[Sarid] This is known as redeployment [last word in English].

[Margalit] Did you talk about this? Did you ask Nabil Sha'th or inquire as to when the Palestinians plan to hold these elections?

[Sarid] Yes, we asked them about their plans. Sa'ib 'Urayqat is in charge of elections on their end. 'Urayqat speaks about 15 December as the target date for these elections. This is not a long way off. I cannot swear that the elections will indeed take place on 15 December, but Israel is interested in promoting elections, because we very much want a democratic Palestinian society.

[Margalit] But people suspect that 'Arafat does not really have any intention of holding elections. They say he is only paying lip service to the idea.

[Sarid] I suspect 'Arafat of several things, but not [illegible]. I believe he has reached the conclusion that he must hold elections, and I hope that these elections will be held in a democratic manner.

[Margalit] Thank you, Minister Sarid.

Baraq Demands Early Warning Alternatives From U.S.

TA1908105994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq demanded from the heads of the U.S. defense establishment, among them Secretary of Defense William Perry, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and John Shalikashvili, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that they provide Israel with early warning capabilities if and when a peace agreement with Syria is signed.

MA'ARIV has learned that in the framework of the discussions between Baraq and his U.S. interlocutors, the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the grave security consequences for Israel were also discussed. The chief of staff explained that the political process notwithstanding, Israel must preserve early warning capabilities to prevent Syria from taking advantage of the new situation and launching a surprise attack at some future date.

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As an example for the new technological means which could replace the Golan Heights warning stations in future, Baraq mentioned the U.S. spy plane J-STARS [Joint Stars]. The two prototypes of this plane already participated in the Gulf War. He also spoke about directly linking Israel to American intelligence satellites.

It should be noted that the United States cannot supply Israel with the J-STARS immediately, because it possesses only the two prototypes which are still being developed. This plane is in fact a flying warning station, the most sophisticated of its kind, which has been developed for the Boeing 707.

Responding a question, the chief of staff said that at the moment the possibility of deploying a U.S. force on the Golan is not under discussion and that such a proposal was not officially raised by Israel or the United States.

Baraq also discussed with the senior U.S. defense officials the dangers emanating from the growing fundamentalist terrorism which is being supported by the rejectionist states. They also discussed the efforts being exerted by terrorist organizations to obtain mass destruction weapons, including nuclear capability. He also conveyed to top CIA officials Israel's position regarding the growing Iranian threat.

Jerusalem circles noted that this is the first time that a chief of staff or any other senior military figure held "practical" discussions in Washington on the issue of security arrangements on the Golan Heights.

Security Sources Expect Hamas Activity To Continue

TA1908113994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Aug 94 p A10

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The Shin Bet is continuing its operations against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads and senior Hamas activists who are in charge of the squads in the West Bank.

Four Hamas squads, which are responsible for a series of attacks, are still at large and active in the West Bank. Security sources believe that the members of these squads will be apprehended in the near future; however, the sources expect attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and settlers to continue.

Senior officers and security elements told HA'ARETZ that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads are planing attacks against the IDF and settlers in the West Bank, adding that the IDF has increased its alert.

Meanwhile, the manhunt continues for the fifth terrorist belonging to the East Jerusalem squad that was wiped out last week by the Shin Bet and the Jerusalem police.

The terrorist managed to escape, and wide-scale searches are being conducted in the West Bank, particularly in the vicinity of Bayt Hanina and Jerusalem's al-Ram neighborhood. The security forces are continuing to interrogate Abu-Khalil, the head of the squad. It now transpires that the squad members planned to kidnap and kill more soldiers, but this plan did not materialize. [passage omitted]

Norwegian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

TA1808164094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal has arrived on a visit to Israel and the autonomy to mark the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement. The visiting minister and Terje Rod Larsen, the UN secretary general's envoy to Gaza, are currently meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Norwegian minister will meet with Prime Minister Rabin tomorrow and will later leave for Gaza for a meeting with PLO Chairman 'Arafat. Shim'on Peres will also attend the meeting. 'Arafat said that the tripartite meeting will discuss mechanisms for the implementation of the agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

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Al-Masri To Visit West Bank on 'Important Trip'

JN1908110594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 18-19 Aug p 1

[Text] AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Tahir al-Masri, the speaker of the House of Representatives, will make within a few days an important trip to the West Bank, particularly his birthplace, the city of Nabulus. Informed sources said the visit was decided after al-Masri was summoned to the palace a few days ago.

The sources added that al-Masri will carry out a mission related to national unity and the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the coming stage in light of his influence within Palestinian circles. This will contribute toward organizing the stands of private economic Palestinian corporations toward Jordan.

Observers described the visit as an objective prelude to implementing previous formulas and ideas of unity between Jordan and the presumed Palestinian state after the final status negotiations.

In an interview with AKHIR KHABAR, Al-Masri neither denied nor confirmed the visit and declined to attach any political significance to it. "God willing, I will visit Nabulus," he said, explaining that what was attributed to him in one of the papers was related to his free movement away from the constraints of political office. He added: Nothing indicates that there are agreements related to special arrangements concerning my presence in the occupied territories.

Asked in this regard if he was alluding to the premiership for instance, al-Masri said: This issue was not discussed. As for the question of national unity, it is a subjective issue whose discussion is unrelated to specific arrangements at this stage.

Al-Masri would not discuss the reasons why he announced that he would not run for the speakership for another term. He expressed surprise at the amazement with which this decision was received. He said: "Many of my colleagues were angry. In fact, many reasons prompted me to take this decision, but I don't want to delve into them now".

Opposition Parties Warn of Economic Peace Policies

JN1908105294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Aug 94 pp 30, 29

[Text] Eight Jordanian political parties opposed to the peace negotiations with Israel Thursday [18 August] issued a statement warning of the economic policies associated with the peace process.

The statement said: The [Husayn-Rabin] Washington meeting was immediately followed by bilateral meetings, as scheduled, to discuss cooperation in all fields, including politics, the economy, and tourism, amid rumors of future stability and prosperity and joint investments and projects. Businessmen have also exchanged visits, as reported by the press, and companies have been registered in occupied Jerusalem.

Stemming from loyalty to our people and our responsibility, the undersigned parties would like to explain the following:

1. Homelands are not given away at any price.

2. Spreading economic illusions about economic prosperity and development plans does not resolve the current economic problems, which are the result of depending on loans and aid and implementing the programs of the World Bank. Jordan's huge indebtedness, economic crisis, poverty, unemployment, and foreign dependence provide sufficient evidence of what we are saying.

Continuing to depend on foreign aid and accepting foreign interference in drawing up economic policies does not resolve the current problem. Rather, it aggravates the problem, as happened with all countries that have been through this experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Rescheduling debt and writing off some of it has not led to any stability or prosperity since the days of Khedive Isma'il Pasha of Egypt late last century.

3. The Zionist enemy has its own economic development program. Therefore, it enters our markets according to its program of expansion and development. This enemy wants to secure cheap manpower and wants us to serve as a market for its goods and a means to penetrate other Arab markets. The Egyptian Government has been through the same experience of debt rescheduling, depending on aid and the IMF, and cooperation with the Zionist enemy. All reports show that Egypt's political, economic, and security situation is now more difficult than anytime in the past.

4. The policies of so-called openness and links with world capitalist markets, including the Zionist enemy, always undermine any efforts for agricultural and industrial production. These policies turn the countries that link their policies with these markets into a service market that is depleted economically. Such a policy, therefore, threatens our nascent industry and agriculture and transforms all our service facilities into fertile ground for hostile investments, not to mention the inherent threat to national and pan-Arab economic security and the fact that this contradicts any plan to achieve Arab and Islamic economic integration.

The parties that issued the statement are: The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (HASHD), the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (WAHDAH), the Jordanian Communist Party, and the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party.

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Israelis To Be Able To Invest in Stock Market

TA1808151394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] In the future, Israeli citizens will be able to invest in the Amman stock exchange under the regulations that apply to foreign investors. This was stated by the deputy governor of Jordan's central bank, Dr. (Michel Marteau), in an interview on our economic newsreel. (Marteau) explained that the Jordanian stock exchange is the second largest in the Arab world and said that the stocks there rose threefold on the average in recent years.

Agreement Signed With U.S. To Reschedule Debt

JN1808131794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Jordan and the United States have signed an agreement to reschedule around $311 million. This follows an agreement with the Paris Club of Creditors on June the 28th of this year between Jordan and members of the club.

Four 'Jordanian Afghans' Arrested in Irbid

JN1808083894 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 22

[Text] Security sources have told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that a group of four people, found in possession of machine guns and hand grenades, was arrested in Irbid. The sources said the group belongs to the "Jordanian Afghans" and was planning to carry out terrorist acts in Jordan. The security men were able to arrest them after thorough surveillance. One member of the group was arrested first and then informed on the other members of the group, who were arrested while travelling between Amman and Irbid. The group was planning to recruit a number of young men to their organization.

The sources added that investigations continue with the members of this group, who confessed. They will be brought to trial.

Thus, the Jordanian security agencies confirm that they do not allow anything to disturb this country's security and stability.

King Orders Support for PLA's Badr Forces

JN1808191894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Message from King Husayn to Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali in Amman on 18 August—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Dear Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister, may God preserve you. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

We convey to you my warm greetings and appreciation as we see Jordan living up to its responsibility toward it people and nation. It is doing so full of pride that it has remained faithful to the pledge of giving and of offering sacrifices that it took when it raised the banner of the Great Arab Revolt—the banner of freedom, independence, dignity, and unity.

While we are celebrating the birthday of the Arab Hashemite Prophet, may God's peace be upon him, we were briefed on the difficult situation facing members of the PLA [Palestine Liberation Army] Badr Forces in Jordan, of the suspension of their funds and discharge of their members. Moreover, the commander of these forces appealed to us in his message dated 17 August 1994. He noted that the Badr Forces—whose members are proud of having been raised by King Husayn and trained by his army—are now facing the most difficult stages of their existence. Their funds have been suspended, their morale is being undermined, their moves are paralyzed, their structure is being destroyed, and, in the end, their members are being discharged.

In response to this appeal and out of loyalty to the fraternal relationship between the comrades-in-arms and our commitment to hold our heads high and to bow only to God, and in reaffirmation of the brotherly relationship between members of our Arab Army and the Badr Forces, I order that all necessary measures be taken to care for the Badr Forces and to provide them with what they need in terms of support, training, and funds so that things can be brought back to normal.

Our response to the brothers' appeal springs from a tolerant creed and our Arabism and history, which have weaved the muhajirin and ansar [reference to Palestinian immigrants hosted by Jordanians] into a new entity and rendered us, as Arabs and Muslims, the closest to the Palestinian cause, people, and holy shrines. Ever since they rose to fight for the cause of Jerusalem, its mosques and churches, the Jordanians, as Arabs and Muslims, have made the most sacrifices, their martyrdom has been the noblest, and their stands the most sincere.

The stand remains the same. Today, we rise up to care for and supervise the holy sites in continuation of our historic role and out of loyalty to the soul of the late great al-Sharif Husayn-Bin-'Ali, the father of the Great Arab Revolt, who chose Jerusalem as his final resting place from among all the nation's territories and the soul of 'Abdallah-Bin-al-Husayn, whose blood watered the al-Aqsa gate after his Army displayed an epic in struggle, perseverance, and martyrdom at the walls of Jerusalem. We ask God to preserve this lofty and dignified homeland and to grant all of us success in serving the good of our people and our nation.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Amman on 11 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 18 August 1994.

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Paper Notes 'Difficulties' in Talks With Israel

JN1908102094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Aug 94 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "Renewing Confidence in the Jordanian Negotiator]

[Text] Another round of Jordanian-Israeli talks concluded yesterday. The head of the Jordanian delegation said these negotiations were serious, while the head of the Israeli delegation said he is convinced that all disputed issues can be resolved.

In fact these statements and others confirm a readiness and a desire to continue the negotiations process through the various committees. On the other hand, these same positions and statements also reveal the difficulties which still exist and which cannot be reduced by the ceremonial meetings and the exchange of gifts. The Jordanian official spokesman has even said there has been no progress yet in the issue of water. The Israeli proposals on security were not accepted by the Jordanian side. There are also difficulties preventing the arrival at general principles on the issue of borders. Moreover, no agreement has been reached on the civil aircraft use of air corridors.

In sum, the apparent acceleration in the negotiations has not so far been matched by a similar acceleration on the path of realizing the desired and legitimate objectives, particularly restoring sovereignty over the occupied territories and regaining Jordan's share of waters.

Although certain ceremonial events that suggest normalization may overshadow the reality, this situation—the existing difficulties and Israel's obstructions—means we should give more confidence and support to the Jordanian negotiator, especially in the light of the fact that any joint ventures will not be executed before signing a full peace treaty. This means that the practical normalization will only take place after the signing and after the regaining of rights and the realization of the declared national objectives, not before that.

Based on this reality, confidence in and support for the Jordanian negotiator must be renewed and any special interpretations regarding the position that seeks to regain and guarantee rights must be set aside. The road to achieve that is not easy or open. Difficulties, bargains, procrastinations, attempts to abuse priorities, and so forth are part of Israel's art of negotiations.

Every Jordanian citizen has the right and the duty to follow these negotiations and their results and to judge these results. The Jordanian negotiator also has the right to enjoy ceaseless support all the time from various political forums and organizations in order to strengthen his position at the negotiations and aid him in the battle to regain rights and ensure full sovereignty.

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Al-Hariri on Liberation of South, National Renewal

NC1808191694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the inauguration of the al-Biqa' Sports Center in al-Khiyarah, al-Biqa', on 18 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] Allow me to begin my speech by voicing profound gratitude to this loyal public. Allow me to thank the villages and townships that have shown their sincere loyalty. I extend profound thanks to all the villages, people, and clans in the al-Biqa' on this occasion, which binds us together in our loyalty to this area. [passage omitted]

Here in the al-Biqa' we declare our commitment to the cause of liberation, just as we have declared our commitment to the cause of reconstruction.

From the al-Biqa' we tell our people in the south: The state, government, army, and public will stand by their side until the last inch of our occupied territory is liberated. [applause]

Liberation is no longer confined to one group, but has become the concern of all the Lebanese people. The ordeal has given us strength. The wound of the south is the wound of al-Biqa' and of every Lebanese citizen. The proof is the Lebanese public's expressions of solidarity with the steadfast citizens of the besieged town of Yuhmur. This popular feeling is a natural, spontaneous response to Israel's objective in besieging this town, an attempt to isolate and annex part of our territory. The Lebanese people will not accept this annexation no matter how much pressure Israel exerts by its daily attacks and brutal air raids against innocent people.

Lebanon's position will not change, regardless of the pressures. The land of the south belongs to the Lebanese people. So does the land of western al-Biqa'. [applause]

All these are occupied territories. Lebanon has the right to reject any manipulation of their destiny. The Lebanese people have the right to oppose their continued occupation. Israeli withdrawal from the south and the western al-Biqa' is the only way peace can be established on the border. The Lebanese state has frequently stressed that it is committed to maintaining this peace with the help of its own armed forces, which are now capable of ensuring calm and security. Let the Israelis withdraw so that the state can fulfill its commitments. Lebanon joined the negotiations in line with a collective Arab decision solely to liberate its territory. We will not permit some people to let these negotiations follow a course that is injurious to the Resistance, because that would be injurious to our dignity, sovereignty, and our right to determine the future of our territory. [applause]

We have chosen the path of honorable peace, avoiding the route of a roundabout and humiliating peace. Together with Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], we will continue pursuing our just course, which will enable us to attain a just and comprehensive peace, a peace of the honorable and the brave. We are confident that President al-Asad, who sponsored the process of domestic peace in Lebanon, will continue to safeguard our front line of defense in the south as well as the rear defense line on the Golan Heights. He will continue to defend Arab dignity and rights.

Brothers, guests, we are standing on the threshold of a crucial period. We must think about it carefully to make sure our course is right and to confront any developments. There are many social and economic challenges. The link between politics and economy often produces results that worry us. However, the figures, the work process, and careful planning for the future show that we are on the right path. Economic prosperity is on the way and our national currency's purchasing power is growing. The construction activity everywhere is proof of the Lebanese people's resolve to renew the country. [passage omitted]

Lahd Comments on 'Terrorist' Operations in South

NC1908073394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] In a statement to correspondents following the celebrations held in Ashqelon at the end of the al-Arz summer camp in which more than 1,000 children from the border area participated, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd said: The war against the terrorists is our daily bread. He added that he hopes the terrorists will understand that their actions will achieve nothing, since they will not force Israel to leave south Lebanon and consequently will not help to establish peace in the region; they will only bring tragedy to the Lebanese in this area or in areas nearby.

Maj. Gen. Lahd said he hopes a state is established in Lebanon that can do something, such as sign a peace treaty.

Asked by our correspondent about an increase in terrorist operations in the border areas of Hasbayya, Kafr Huna, and al-Naqurah, despite promises that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher obtained from the Syrians on calming the situation in the south, Maj. Gen. Lahd said: I do not know what promises Christopher obtained from the Syrians. All I know is that there are terrorist operations targeting the border areas; they only shed the blood of the Lebanese.

Judge Remarks on Call for French To Quiz 'Carlos'

NC1908115094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The public prosecutor, Judge Munif 'Uwaydat, has stated that the Lebanese Judiciary has no file on

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international terrorist 'Carlos' and therefore could not act without a request from the authorities.

He added: Since 'Carlos' is not a Lebanese national, the judiciary is not concerned with what 'Carlos' has done outside Lebanon.

Judge 'Uwaydat's remarks came in response to a call made by Raymond Iddih to the public prosecution office in Lebanon to ask the French judicial authorities to interrogate 'Carlos' about some of the explosions and political assassinations in Lebanon during the civil war.

President Invited to Regional Economic Summit

NC1908120394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri this morning received Moroccan Ambassador Muhammad Salih al-Zu'ayni, who was accompanied by the Moroccan charge in Lebanon.

The Moroccan envoy was asked after the meeting about the nature of his visit to Lebanon. He said: I visited Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and handed him a message from His Majesty King Hassan II. His excellency welcomed us warmly and sincerely. Our talks were in fact very useful and part of the efforts to bolster the peace process and the existing fraternal relations between Morocco and Lebanon.

Asked if he can divulge the contents of the message, the envoy said: Earlier today, I handed His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi a message that deals with the same subject, namely an invitation from his majesty the king to attend an economic summit on development in the Middle East, which will be held at the end of October in Morocco.

Asked if Israel will take part in this summit, he said: Yes. Israel will participate.

Asked about Prime Minister al-Hariri's reply to this invitation, the envoy said: We are waiting for the Lebanese reply. The president and the prime minister have promised to tell us the Lebanese cabinet's response to this invitation.

Junblatt Explains Proposal on Palestinian Refugees

NC1908130494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt held a news conference in al-Mukhtarah this morning in which he discussed the Palestinian refugees. He said: We have two alternatives—to return them to their original camps or to find another solution.

Junblatt attacked those who criticize the proposal to return Palestinians to their original camps, saying: If the dignitaries of the so-called Maronite League can return the Palestinians to Palestine, let them contact their Israeli comrades and friends to return these people to Palestine. Junblatt added:

[Begin Junblatt recording] In the past couple of days [words indistinct], when an official in the Refugee Ministry discussed an objective, humane, and political solution to the issue of the Palestinians evacuated from their camps. There was a commotion surrounding the resettlement of the Palestinians—the same old story we are used to hearing from particular parties. Our response was very clear.

Large groups of Palestinians were evacuated with other Lebanese groups during the early stages of the Lebanese war in 1975-1976. We have two alternatives: Either return these people to their original camps in Tall al-Za'tar, Jisr al-Basha, al-Nabatiyah, and other places or find a suitable political, humane, and ethical solution. These people cannot continue to live under these conditions of displacement. If the dignitaries of the so-called Maronite League can return the Palestinians to Palestine, they are welcome to do that. Let them contact their Israeli comrades and friends to return these people to Palestine. I have no objection. I do not think the Palestinians have any objection to that.

Until this happens—until the Palestinians return to Palestine—the ministry suggests that land be bought to build proper housing for over 2,000-3,000 of the Palestinian families who were originally evacuated from the regions we called the eastern areas.

If we return them to Jisr al-Basha and Tall al-Za'tar, I have no objection. But why all this commotion over a simple issue? This is what I wanted to say today in reaction to the press campaign. [end recording]

Russian Envoy Arrives With Yeltsin Message

NC1908123294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of the Russian president and Middle East expert, arrived in Beirut today carrying a message from President Boris Yeltsin to President al-Hirawi.

While here the Russian envoy will hold talks with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz before he leaves tomorrow.

The Russian official is on a tour that will take him to Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

On his arrival, Posuvalyuk said that his mission is within the framework of exchanging views with Lebanese officials on the regional peace process. He added that bilateral relations will be discussed.

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] I am going on this tour at the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin. I begin the

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tour in Lebanon. This signifies our interest in the Lebanese issues and our traditional cordial relations with this country. [end recording]

Continued Israeli Shelling, Overflights Reported

NC1808170094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Report by Qasim Safa, National News Agency correspondent in Tyre]

[Text] Since 1400 today enemy artillery, using 120-mm shells, has been bombarding the outskirts of Majdal Zun, al-Mansuri, Wadi al-'Izziyah, and al-Hinniyah from its positions in al-Bayyadah and the Tayr Harfa-al-Jibbayn triangle. At 1600 today Israeli helicopters flew over the al-Mansuri-al-Qulaylah plain south of Tyre for more than an hour. As of 1700 the shelling was continuing, with the roads leading to Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm coming under artillery fire with 120-mm shells. An estimated 20 shells were fired by the enemy forces from their positions in the Tayr Harfa-al-Jibbayn triangle. The shelling of the outskirts of Majdal Zun and Zibqin by artillery and tank guns of various caliber continued until 1715. No human or material causalities have been reported, but economic activity and movement in the shelled villages has been paralyzed. The resistance retaliated by shelling enemy forces in the Tayr- Harfa-al-Jibbayn triangle.

IDF Soldiers Wounded in Clash With Hizballah

TA1808182594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded in the course of a clash with Hizballah in the western sector of the security zone. One terrorist was killed and his comrades fled. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that terrorists activated a roadside bomb at noon as an IDF force was on the move from Rosh Haniqra to the Ra's al-Bayyadah area. Two soldiers were slightly wounded as a result of the explosion. The force fought the terrorists, killing one of them. Missiles, light weapons, and devices for the activation of another bomb were found at the site.

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Al-Ahmar on Commitment to Peace 'Foundations'

JN1708195594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today met with comrades taking part in the central party indoctrination course for the national party organizations at the Higher Institute for Political Science. [passage omitted]

At the outset of the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed to the participants the greetings and love of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general and president of the republic. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the most important developments in the Arab and international arenas and in the peace process. which has faced obstruction and did not achieve its objective of realizing a just and comprehensive peace that returns the occupied Arab territories and usurped Arab rights to their owners. This is because of Israel's attempts to single out the Arab parties and to impose partial solutions which achieve Israel's interests and distance the parties from the right track of the peace process, which is based on the land-for-peace principle and international legitimacy resolutions.

He said that Syria firmly adheres to its principled stands toward the peace process and is committed to the foundations and bases on which it was launched. He added that if Israel is serious about rendering the peace process a success, it should fully commit itself to implementing the international legitimacy resolutions by fully withdrawing from the occupied arab territories so that peace would be comprehensive and viable—an honorable peace that restores rights to their rightful owners and maintains everyone's dignity and interests.

Comrade al-Ahmar noted that some Arab parties' departure from Arab coordination within the peace process did not prevent Syria from adhering to this important framework. He said that Syria is working with sisterly Lebanon toward reinforcing this coordination in order to achieve a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon in implementation of international legitimacy resolutions. [passage omitted]

Democratic Arab Union Party Leader Interviewed

MM1808155794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "New Party in Syria Elects Its Leadership, Attacks Agreements With Israel"]

[Text] Damascus—The Democratic Arab Union [DAU] party, having become an official party in Syria and being treated now like the parties rallying under the National Progressive Front, has held its general conference in Damascus and unanimously elected Ghassan 'Uthman to be the party's secretary general and Nabil al-Mallah—who represents the party in the Syrian Government, as minister of state for People's Assembly affairs—to be assistant secretary general.

A debate is under way within the Syrian leadership to produce a formula to include the party in the National Progressive Front, which comprises seven political parties in addition to the ruling Ba'th Party, in the framework of the political and party pluralism applied by Syria in its system of government. The National Front is the highest authority in the state. It is headed by President Hafiz al-Asad.

The DAU party is contesting the current elections, held to elect mebers of the People's Assembly for its sixth legislative term, with 21 candidates at national level.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Nabil al-Mallah, the party's assistant secretary general, pointed out that the next stage is the most important stage in the life of this party. He said: "We view with interest the major international changes that have altered and continue to alter all conditions and balances in the world. This is why, when we discussed Syrian foreign policy at the conference, our view was that it is characterized by full awareness of international circumstances and changes. This is why we unanimously supported it. Syria has managed through this policy to occupy a distinct position in the region and at world level, and its stances have enjoyed the respect of international circles."

Al-Mallah added: "We stressed the importance of giving priority to pan-Arab issues and seeking to reinforce Arab solidarity, noninterference in the internal affairs of any Arab country, helping any Arab country seeking such help, as happened in Lebanon, in addition to establishing cordial relations with all world states, reinforcing the role of the Arab League, complying with UN resolutions, respecting the will of the international community, and working earnestly within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic states organization [Islamic Conference Organization]."

He said that "We voiced no reservations about anything." He pointed out that the conference reviewed the Arab reality and the scale of the deterioration in Arab conditions and relations, and the weakness of Arab solidarity and coordination. He said that "The crazy war ignited by Saddam Husayn in the Gulf rocked the Arab homeland, and the Arab nation will suffer from its results for many years to come. And the fratricide in Yemen had led to the destruction of the economic, social, and military infrastructures." Nabil al-Mallah added that his party sees the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the Jordanian-Israeli accord as a blatant violation of Arab coordination and solidarity.

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He stressed that "We support the peace emphasized by President Hafiz al-Asad at the Geneva summit. Namely, a just and comprehensive peace, in addition to not abandoning a single inch of Arab land." He also said: "We donot want peace on paper; we want peace in reality." Asked if the DAU party discussed the issue of normalization with Israel, al-Mallah said: "We discussed the peace issue. We see the normalization issue as another issue. We believe that peace can only be achieved after the land has been

Lebanon's al-Hariri Meets With Khaddam

NC1808193194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] We received this report a few moments ago:

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri headed for Damascus this evening, where he was met upon arrival by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They reviewed the latest developments at the local and regional levels. recovered."

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Afghanistan

Aide Says Hekmatyar Uninjured, in 'Perfect Health'

BK1808125594 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Aug 94 p 1

[REUTER/AFP report: "Hekmatyar Well"]

[Text] Islamabad—Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has not been wounded, one of his representatives here said on Wednesday [17 August], denying a report by the BAKHTAR news agency.

Mangal Hussain, a representative of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction, said he had spoken to the prime minister by telephone and that Hekmatyar had "not a scratch" on him and was in perfect health.

Bakhtar, which is controlled by the Jamiat-i-Islami of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, which is fighting the Hezb, reported Tuesday the prime minister had been seriously wounded in the leg and neck during a bombardment on Friday of his headquarters in Charasyab, 25 kms south of Kabul.

TV Viewers: Hekmatyar Looking Fit

NC1808124694 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 18 (AFP)—Afghan opposition faction leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, whom the state news agency BAKHTAR said was seriously wounded in a recent jet attack, has appeared on his own television service, local viewers said Thursday [18 August].

They said the Hezb-e-Eslami faction leader was seen on television late Wednesday, pictured from the waist up and seated at a desk, with no obvious signs of serious head injuries or paralysis of the tongue as earlier claimed in a written statement by BAKHTAR.

Abdul Ali Mazari, leader of the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction which is in alliance with Hekmatyar, denied any injury to the Hezb leader in last Friday's attack by jets of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

"Absolutely not. He was not wounded at all," Mazari told AFP.

A BAKHTAR spokesman, while admitting Hekmatyar was "not badly wounded" after all, nevertheless insisted that the Hezb leader was hit by shrapnel in the leg, speculating this was the reason he was shown seated while on television.

According to Mazari, Hekmatyar, who also spoke on his "Message of Freedom" radio service, made no direct reference at all to being wounded, but had agreed to appear on television in answer to state "propaganda."

Meanwhile, there was heavy fighting on the eastern front lines of Kabul starting around dawn Thursday and continuing into the afternoon.

Military sources said pro-Rabbani troops had launched an infantry offensive against Hezb positions, specifically the eastern tip of the strategic Maranjan Hill and its adjacent Karta-ye Now district.

Extremely heavy artillery fire was traded between both sides, and pro-Rabbani jets were seen dropping bombs and firing rockets against Hezb positions.

A BAKHTAR spokesman said pro-Rabbani troops had advanced into Karta-ye Now and had captured some Hezb positions behind Maranjan Hill.

Mazari acknowledged that he wanted to protect his civilian population from the current fighting, which has continued in Kabul for eight months.

Ministry Reacts to UN Statement on Situation

LD1808212494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Statement by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman "regarding the statement on current events in Afghanistan by the chairman of the UN Security Council, dated 11 August 1994"—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] Following a 11 August UN Security Council session on current events in Afghanistan, the chairman issued a statement, which is regarded by Afghanistan as an important and significant document concerning a solution to the current issues in Afghanistan. Afghanistan welcomes the positive and realistic points of the statement as a rational approach for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

The statement strongly denounces the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan, and other countries have been asked to stop the flow of military assistance to the belligerent parties in order to end internal hostility, to restore peace and security in this country, and to take part in rebuilding Afghanistan. The statement also emphasizes the role of the people of Afghanistan in finding a solution for their domestic problems.

In the view of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the statement is not only a positive reply to the wish of the nation of Afghanistan—which demands the end of foreign interference in the country's internal affairs, it is also an important step for the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The statement also attempts to prepare the ground for the extension of the reconstruction and humanitarian assistance for the revival of our war-torn country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has many times emphasized thepoint that the current fighting in Afghanistan is not a civil war but is an imposed war from outside. Interference continues, on a regular basis, in the internal

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affairs of Afghanistan by a number of countries and some specific circles. By sending weapons and military equipment to elements attached to foreign countries, attempts have been made to prevent the consolidation of security and stability, and to create obstacles to the further consolidation of the Islamic system.

Foreign interference in the continuation of the fighting, which has seriously endangered the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan, has been mentioned in the 11-article resolution of the herat shura and in the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan dated 6 August 1994.

The Foreign Ministry statement asks UN special envoy Mahmud Mestiri to seek an effective [word indistinct] approach to halting the dispatch of weapons and military equipment to the opposition forces of the Islamic State. [Words indistinct] continuation of interference further increases the pain of the people in Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] is quite obvious that no doubt has remained regarding foreign interference after the presentation of a report by Mahmud Mestiri following his first visit to Afghanistan.

In attracting the serious attention of the international community, the Islamic State of Afghanistan asks the UN Security Council not simply to rely on in issuing a statement in this respect, but to start taking action.

Despite positive and welcoming points in the UN Security Council chairman's statement, the Islamic State of Afghanistan was expecting the UN Security Council to consider other important subjects, including the importance of convening the grand Islamic herat shura, participation of our nation's credible delegates in this shura, rendering of important resolutions and decisions on the solution of current issues in Afghanistan, and was also expecting the UN Security Council to express support for these measures. The UN statement does not make any reference to these actions.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan expects the United Nations, in coordinating its good-will endeavors with the will of the Afghan nation for the solution of issues in Afghanistan, to cooperate with efforts for the convocation of the Islamic Grand Assembly, which is to be held as an endorsement of the Constitution, and to elect a political leadership and other destiny-making national issues. [passage omitted]

Kabul Hit by Rocket; Militia Positions Bombed

LD1808171594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Army Air Force today bombed the fortifications of the Golboddin-Dostam militias, causing heavy losses of life and material to the enemy. A source of the armed forces reported to BIA that following the launch of rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city, Air Force and Artillery Force aircraft today bombed the militias' positions and fortifications in the Benehisar and Bagrami areas. Several enemy trenches were destroyed and dozens of militiamen were either killed or injured. Several enemy heavy weapons' launching positions were also eliminated.

According to another report, last night and today the Golboddin-Dostum militias fired 40 rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city. A source at the Kabul garrison reported to BIA that the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias, during the past 24 hours, fired 40 rockets and mortar shells on the residential areas of Kabul. As a result of this savage attacks, 39 Kabul citizens were injured. The attacks also caused heavy material losses.

India

New Tone Perceived in U.S. South Asia Policy

BK1808150594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Change Of Tone"]

[Text] For the first time the Clinton administration has shown a credible inclination to review the Cold War era policy on South Asian affairs. This is the true significance of the new US ambassador to India Frank Wisner's elaboration of his country's approach to bilateral relations. So far the Clinton line was based primarily on what he thought should be done to promote in this region wider global objectives such as nuclear non-proliferation and checks on missile transfers. What Wisner has now said suggests that Washington is having a closer look at India's concerns before trying to pressurise this country into accepting American foreign policy priorities unquestioningly. In a way, Wisner's statements had only a few months ago caused misgivings in India by pushing for the sale of F-16's to Pakistan. The striking change in his tenor gives a new complexion to American pragmatism. His stress on reciprocity is especially heartening. Apart from the questionable substance of the old approach, the overbearing manner in which it was often sought to be applied was equally irritating. Yet the new appreciation of issues with a vital bearing on Indo-US relations cannot be expected to yield results in the immediate future. The fact that Washington has had to issue two clarifications after Wisner expressed his views shows that the revision in the offing will not be entirely free from friction.

Washington, for instance, seems to be keen to convince Pakistanis that it will take due note of their reactions. At the moment it is over Wisner's doubts about the sale of F-16s materialising that have cast a shadow over US-Pakistan ties. The State Department spokesman, Mike McCurry's "impression" is that Islamabad is more interested in the aircraft than in claiming the money already paid for some of the indented ones. What is far from clear is the real implication of his statement that "it is within the realm of the possible that we could see some forward progress on our non-proliferation concerns that would allow Pakistan to take delivery of the aircraft in question."

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This, again, serves to put to a severe test Washington's capacity to free Indo-U.S. ties from the shackles imposed by its old self-assumed obligation to keep Pakistan in good humour. No one in India has asked the U.S. policy-makers to adopt an anti-Pakistani policy as a price for improvement in Indo-U.S. relations. All that is expected of them is that they should make a clean break with the past policy of total unconcern for India's security while maintaining cordial relations with Pakistan.

Plutonium Smuggling Reports Cause 'Grave Concern'

BK1908092594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Both houses of Parliament today expressed grave concern at the reported smuggling of weapon-grade plutonium to Pakistan. Members, cutting across party lines, asked the government to take up the issue in all international forums. They also wanted effective steps to meet the security threat posed by the new development.

The issue was raised by Mr. Ramesh Chunikhala, Congress-I, in the Lok Sabha, and Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy, Janata Dal, in the Rajya Sabha during zero hour. Drawing the attention of the Lok Sabha to the newspaper reports, Mr. Chunikhala and his party colleagues Mrs. Sribanap Panigrahi and M. Sudhir Savan said the German officials have unearthed positive evidence of plutonium smuggling from Russian sources to Pakistan. One Pakistani national and three others have been arrested. They said after the collapse of the Soviet Union, weapon-grade nuclear material is available more freely and India should take up the matter with Russia.

Iran

Velayati on Central Asian Tour, Argentina

LD1808203594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1608 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Studio interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified announcer—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dr. Velayati, thank you for attending. What was the aim of your tour of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucuses?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the republics of Central Asia and Azerbaijan, the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union, are very close and deepening every day. For the realization of the existing capacities in bilateral relations it is necessary to exchange various delegations—at various levels and different fields in which we can cooperate. The axis of our work, between the Islamic Republic of Iran and these republics, is the written and signed agreements reached between the presidents of these republics and his excellency the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dozens of agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed between us. It is the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry to prepare the political ground leading to the signing of the agreements and memorandums of understanding. [passage omitted]

The principle aim of visiting these republics was to follow up the past agreements and memorandums of understanding, some of which have been implemented; some remain to be so. If there have been obstacles in the way, there was an effort to solve them in the talks. I must say, very positive steps were taken.

[Announcer] You pointed to the understandings reached, or being reached. What is the nature of the agreements and at what level are they?

[Velayati] The most important agreements reached between us and the republics, and the most liked by them, are those concerning expansion of links between the republics and us—or through us to the rest of the world. Considering that these countries have no links to the open sea, naturally having suitable road links to the outside world is of importance. Traditionally they have used and continue to use some roads. However, the guarantee for their independence lies in the creation of variety in these links. This has been the area of greatest expansion in relations between us and was the topic of greatest attention. This is of interest to them and us: Air links, sea links—through the Caspian Sea—and overland links—roads or railways. Today we have many flights to the capitals of these republics. Some two or three a week, while there was nothing before.

The second axis is cooperation regarding gas and oil. Turkmenistan has more gas and less oil. Kazakhstan has oil. Azerbaijan has rich oil reserves. To be able to progress and reconstruct their countryies they need an active economy, with foreign currency obtained from the sale of these valuable goods as the foundation. To sell the oil and gas they have to take them to the markets. Countries with access to the sea can easily provide this through tanker and ship transport. But those countries which have no access to the open sea have to rely on pipeline. They have been studying the situation, and know that one of their best alternatives for the transfer of gas and oil is the Islamic Republic. For the first time, in the three countries—Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan—we finalized the issue of initial political and technical understanding for the transfer of oil and gas.

The transfer of oil from Kazakhstan to Iran and from Iran to other countries is a suitable and inexpensive method of export. That is, they transfer their oil to our country; we refine it, consume it in some parts of the country; and then we will pass the oil to their customers in the Persian Gulf. That is the cheapest way of selling oil and offering it to the market. If they want to lay pipelines, they have to spend perhaps billions of dollars, which is not economical and takes a long time.

The third axis of the discussions concerned economy and trade. Fortunately, I should mention that trade and

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economy between those republics and us expands rapidly. We already see the effects of such ties in our border provinces of Khorasan, Mazandaran, Gilan, Ardebil, and East and West Azarbaijan, which have witnessed prosperous commercial ties with those republics. Such relations serve both our and those republics' interests. I should mention that many of our businessmen have in fact directed their trade toward those republics, and they also welcome this. Some provinces that have no border with those republics are also active in those republics. For example, Esfahan Province has set up an exhibition in the city of Marv, presenting goods produced in Esfahan, which has no joint border with any of those republics.

Another axis of the discussions was regional cooperation and the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in efforts to end regional hostilities, which they requested from Iran.

[Announcer] Dr. Velayati, on better regional cooperation and security, which you mentioned, what discussions did you have on issues such as Tajikistan and Karabakh?

[Velayati] It was the wish of all the Central Asian republics that we visited that the Islamic Republic of Iran should be active—even more than previously—in the Tajik issue and the establishment of peace in that country. We accept that. The fact that there is such a welcome regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in the issue of peace and the resumption of peace talks concerning Tajikistan demonstrates that today—more than ever—the trust of those republics has been attracted toward the good will of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and that despite the propaganda by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. That is true also about Karabakh.

Vis-a-vis Karabakh, Armenia requests the same thing from us. Even in Azerbaijan the parliamentary speaker told us that in his recent talks with Jan Eliasson in Vienna, he had proposed that the Islamic Republic of Iran resume its efforts in Caucasia and actively participate in the peace process. Recently, a Russian official called on Iran and Turkey to participate in establishing peace in Caucasia. We have no objection to that. When we were in Azerbaijan we declared that if the fighting parties wish the Islamic Republic of Iran to intervene, we will not spare any efforts.

[Announcer] You referred to economic cooperation. In what framework? Would it be preferred to be carried out within the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], with the participation of the Caspian Sea littoral states or within what was predicted before, as a new alliance, the alliance of the Caspian Sea region?

[Velayati] Both. In relation to ECO we are serious, and most of its member states are serious, to the same level. Every day we have meetings among the member states at various levels and in the form of committees and commissions. We hold meeting at the ministerial level, or other ranks, such as experts and specialists, and once a year at ECO summit level. Essentially the activities of ECO today cannot be compared with the cooperation among the three countries of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan under the Izmir Accord—which is the legal basis for ECO today. That is, today, these activities are greater. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Dr. Velayati, we wish to to ask you about the recent terrorist activities in Argentina. We are now witnessing many Western propaganda attacks against Iran. What are the bases of these stances adopted by the West?

[Velayati] I should say that the country, or rather the government and the regime—as we do not agree that it is a country—that is inciting these propaganda campaigns or is the source and the creator of all this propaganda, is the Israeli regime. The main reason for these attempts is that they, the Zionists, are trying to expand their domination [seytareh] over the Middle East, in the first instance, and over the Islamic world at a later stage. Of course, this is their vain imaginings; because today they have no security, because of the activities of the Palestinians, even in their home; I mean in the house they have usurped, the house that does not belong to them. They make use of all different tactics to achieve their ends.

As among all the countries in the Islamic world, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted the most direct, the clearest, the most decisive and the strongest position regarding this expansionism by the Zionists; they direct the sharp edge of all their propaganda toward us. The Zionist circles in the Western world are well known. Many of these Western mass media have been created as the result of Zionist investment, or have been purchased by them. Therefore, when they wish, they organize a propaganda campaign against a country; or if a report was not in their favor they suppress that report.

[Announcer] We have witnessed many contradictory statements by Argentine officials in this respect. What is the reason for this?

[Velayati] The Argentinians themselves have admitted—and we possess sources and cases that they themselves have stated—that they are under the pressure of certain elements from other countries. As they are under pressure they are forced to adopt certain stances. As the affiliated media, whose intention is to initiate a certain current of opinion or to divert a certain current have not and will not allow the Argentinians any opportunity to think, it is clear that they cannot reach a correct, a mature, and a wise decision. This is the reason for all these contradictory statements.

The fact is that we have not witnessed any ill intention by the Argentine Government. What is happening is that it adopted those stances under American and Israeli pressures. Later, it realized that the stance they adopted had not been based on any firm foundations. It is also not in its interest. It is not in keeping with its national interests. This is why it had to amend its stance. It adopted a stance under pressure. Later, when it had an opportunity to think and to examine the case, it realized that it was baseless, that it would harm its national interests, and it tried to correct its stance. This is why it all seems very contradictory.

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[Announcer] Please tell us briefly about the effective actions taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the false accusations made against it.

[Velayati] The Islamic Republic of Iran, with awareness and the necessary capability, confronted the propaganda conspiracy from the time it began. For example, it said that Mr. Mo'tamer, an Iranian diplomat, has said this or that. We proved that not only is Mr. Mo'tamer not an Iranian diplomat, but he is not even a government employee. He used to be a minor tradesman in Esfahan, and he even had a criminal file in Esfahan's justice department. He sold his belongings and left Iran a few months ago with his wife and children to live abroad. Apparently, in Turkey or some other place, he fell into the Zionist octopus-like network trap. He is then used as a wretched tool in this case. You saw how he made some claims in the Venezuela case that created some problems between us and Venezuela. Then, when it became clear that he is a liar and a cheat, Venezuela deported him and refused to give him political asylum. He then became involved in the Argentine game. It went to the extent that even some prominent Zionist figures also announced that that person's remarks can not be used as evidence.

In any case, we reacted clearly, explicitly, and decisively against the moves against us in the form of that propaganda, that political and international conspiracy, and we took suitable measures, not giving the enemy the opportunity to expand its plot against us—God be praised. I should mention that our colleagues at the Foreign Affairs Ministry are holding their heads high before the nation regarding this case. Just yesterday, apparently, AP admitted that the Islamic Republic has confronted the Argentine plot with great capability in the world political and propaganda arena.

[Announcer] Dr. Velayati, once again I thank you for participating in our program and giving us your time.

[Velayati] I also thank you.

Envoy to Argentina Returns; Ties Not Severed

LD1808173494 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Buenos Aires, Argentina, Hadi Suleymanpur, arrived in Tehran Thursday night.

Upon arrival at Mehrabad international airport, Suleymanpur told foreign and domestic reporters that his return home does not mean the severance of Tehran-Buenos Aires diplomatic ties.

Suleymanpur was recalled to Iran by the Foreign Ministry for consultations on Tehran-Buenos Aires relations.

The process of mutual relations between Iran and argentina was not on the ordinary track over the recent days due to the allegations of Argentinian judge, Juan Jose Galeano, against Iran.

The Iranian officials have repeatedly refuted the Argentinian judge's allegations against Iran as baseless, pointing out that Galeano's file on the July 18 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish center was solely based on the fabrications of an unstable and selfish Iranian Manuchehr Mo'tamar.

Meanwhile the Argentinian ambassador to Tehran, Mario Quadri Del Castillo left here for his country on Wednesday.

Comments on 'Propaganda'

NC1908063694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Soleymanpur, who has been summoned to Tehran for consultations, attended an interview with our correspondent last night after he arrived in Tehran. Commenting on the recent propaganda activity on the Buenos Aires explosion, he said: The Iranian Embassy has conveyed through the Argentine Foreign Ministry the necessary information on those charged by the Argentine magistrate. This information consists of documented proof to remove the accusations. More documents and information will be placed at the disposal of the magistrate investigating the case.

Our ambassador to Argentina stressed: Some of the diplomats to whom the Argentine magistrate has referred in his accusations are people whose mission in Argentina was completed at least six years ago. Since then they have not been assigned to any overseas posts.

Commenting on contradictory statements by Argentine officials on the Buenos Aires explosion, Soleymanpur added: It is obvious that domestic pressure by the Zionist mass media and by some factions within the Argentine Government, all of which are linked with international contacts, are the reason for these contradictory statements.

But the ambassador pointed out that Argentine officials are currently interested in maintaining their ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Continuing, our correspondent asked two more questions. We ask you to listen to them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The mass media in Argentina and Zionist circles are running extensive anti-Iranian propaganda. Have they offered any proof?

[Soleymanpur] These mass media and the press concoct something new daily in a bid to harm the Islamic Republic of Iran. But all that emerges in the case is based on remarks by an impostor who has been offered asylum by a Latin American government. The issue that is being discussed at length in Argentina now is the reliability of this person's remarks.

The case is now being examined by the Argentine Supreme Court, where differences of opinion exist on the reliability

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of the documents referred to by the magistrate. It is very possible that this case will be returned to the magistrate for further investigation.

[Correspondent] When will Your Excellency return to your post?

[Soleymanpur] The decision on whether I will return to my post depends on the views of the Iranian Government as well as on the Argentine officials' approach to how the case will be modified and adapted and on their behavior in the diplomatic field.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Soleymanpur] You are welcome. [end recording]

Lack of Will by UAE To Solve Disputes Seen

NC1908105794 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Aug 94 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "The Falsehoods of the Kuwaiti Official"]

[Text] In an interview with the Cairo-based AL-WAFD newspaper, 'Abdallah Bisharah, adviser to the Kuwaiti foreign minister, supported the imaginary claim by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on the Iranian islands [in the Persian Gulf]. Speaking in the interview that was held in Kuwait, he said: "Iran should show goodwill."

'Abdallah Bisharah, a former secretary general of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has a political record of fanning the flames of political disputes among the Islamic Republic of Iran and the six GCC members. Within the capacity of his position in the GCC, instead of trying to identify the nature of the existing crises in the Persian Gulf littoral states and to act as an arbitrator, he was influenced by pressure from some of the members of the GCC, especially the Saudi regime.

During the past week, not only Egypt's AL-WAFD but many other Egyptian newspapers have tried, in tandem with the visit by the UAE head to Cairo, to propound the same old issues, specifically the issue of the islands that belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to once again pour oil over the flame of disputes. An unofficial report indicates that during the visit by the head of the UAE regime to Egypt, UAE propaganda and information sources have tried to bribe Egypt's mass media to alter the Egyptian media's stance to their benefit.

Thus, AL-WAFD's publication of the interview with the adviser to the Kuwaiti foreign minister should be viewed within this context. What is extremely significant in all this is the behind-the-scenes role of the Zionists in the propaganda war. Recently, the Zionists have not spared any effort or opportunity to spark off malicious propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Their hollow and disgraceful propaganda on the Argentine crisis is only one example of this. Usually in such propaganda campaigns against the Islamic Republic of Iran they find an accomplice. In the Buenos Aires explosion, they found the Argentine regime, Venezuela, and so on. With the Iranian islands, they resorted to Egypt's Camp David regime, to the UAE regime, and to other lackey Arab governments in the region.

Unfortunately, such regimes feel the bitter taste of their propaganda dependence on the Zionists only when they lose part of their political prestige in the eyes of the public.

The UAE's actions toward the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years have been concentrated to a very small degree on finding ways to overcome disputes, and it has—willy-nilly—fallen into the trap of plans that others have drawn up for it.

Within the framework of its Islamic policies, and especially its principle of goodneighborliness as well as the establishment of cooperation among the regional countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always stated its readiness to overcome the misunderstandings with the UAE on the Iranian islands.

To show its goodwill toward the UAE, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly sent high-ranking delegations to Abu Dhabi in a bid to overcome any disputes and misunderstandings between the two sides and it has announced its readiness to welcome UAE officials for the purpose of continuing bilateral talks.

Countries in the region, especially Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain, are well aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran several times has taken the first step toward the consolidation of security and tranquility in the Persian Gulf and the creation of an atmosphere of cooperation in the interest of the region.

With a feeling of responsibility, Islamic Iran has created the conditions for a resolution of the differences with the UAE. If the UAE officials display an independent political will or, at least, goodwill, then achieving understanding through bilateral talks will not be unattainable. But apparently there is no sign of either political will or goodwill on their part.

U.S. Democrats Said Making 'Historic Mistake'

NC1908100594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Aug 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "America's Democratic Party—Repetition of Past Mistakes"]

[Text] The obvious contradiction in the news that has been dispatched by the Zionist-influenced news agencies on the explosion at the Jewish center in Argentina and the extreme confusion that rules the Western propaganda machinery on this issue is disgracing them more and more each day. All efforts are being concentrated on how to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran, in every possible manner, for the explosion despite the absence of any type of documents, proof, or reasons. Rarely has there been such volume of propaganda as what is being disseminated

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today by the West and by the mass media in other countries that are fed by the West.

Nevertheless, what is extremely clear is that the Zionists and their international accomplices have been disgraced. Everything now shows the failure of all the plots that the CIA and Mosad had jointly engineered and intended to hatch against the Islamic Republic of Iran. And the disgrace is so great that even many Western journalists have been forced to adopt a clear stance, despite the huge amounts of bribery that they have received from the Zionists.

The American Government is facing an extremely deplorable situation. A government that claims world leadership has become an instrument in the hands of the Zionists and is sacrificing the interests of a nation that claims to be civilized and developed for the wants of a usurping and terrorist government.

The only outcome that the American Government's cooperation with the Zionists in the plots that are engineered against the Islamic Republic is that Washington, too, will be disgraced.

History is being repeated. America's Democratic Party has once again made a historic mistake about the Islamic Republic of Iran and is repeating its bitter experience of the past 16 years. And this time, too, the heads of the Democratic Party are using the Zionist rope to lower the American people into the well.

It is not clear what sin the American nation has committed to be once again subjected to world disgrace because of the historic mistakes of the Democratic Party leaders. If the American nation tries the Democratic Party in a free court it will become clear how this party has preferred the interests of a bunch of hucksters whose existence is based on state terrorism over the nation's interests. This trial will be held by history, a trial that at the least will result in the fall, once again, of America's Democratic Party.

U.S.-Israeli Endeavor To Isolate Country Viewed

LD1808130794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0947 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Israel's Zionist regime has announced that it intends to play an active role in limiting Iran's economic ties with the industrial countries. Therefore, a delegation from the Zionist regime's Foreign Ministry has been commissioned to contact the industrial states to encourage them to cut their economic relations with Iran. This delegation will try to talk to the industrial countries, especially the member countries of the European Union and to Japan, to prevent sending advanced industrial equipment to Iran.

In order to implement this conspiracy, as a first step, Peres, foreign minister of the Zionist regime, will meet the German chancellor next week.

The hatching of conspiracies and the exertion of pressure on the Islamic Republic is not new. These sorts of actions have been implemented in the past in various forms, but have not brought any result.

Following the various plots, three years ago America began efforts to destroy Iran's relations with the industrial countries to keep Iran under pressure and in isolation.

Therefore, having held various contacts with the authorities of the industrial countries and having discussed the issue at the G-7 summit, it tried to sway the views of the industrial countries in its favor.

In view of Iran's extensive economic ties with these countries and the mutual benefit that the industrial countries gain from their ties with Iran, America did not achieve any success in this direction. For example, despite America's pressure, Japan and Germany never resorted to disturbing their relations with Iran.

In the opinion of experts, the Zionist regime, under present conditions, having discussed the issue of exerting pressure on Iran through the destruction of relations of the industrial countries with Iran, tried to pretend as if it has recently embarked on anti-Iranian activities; and by this pretense, it tried to find a cover-up for its previous defeat. Yet, following an increasing wave of intifadah and anti-Zionist activities, despite the creation of an autonomous region, the Zionist regime tries to divert public opinion and views from the internal issues of the occupied lands to abroad and to justify its lack of success against the power of the forces of Muslim activists.

What is obvious is the fact that the anti-Zionist activities of the Muslim people of the occupied lands have an internal basis and one could never ignore realities by attributing them to foreign factors. However, foreign factors with their support will strengthen their cause. The policy announced by the Zionist regime is in line with that policy that America has followed for many years. Although, it takes place under a pretext of exerting pressure on Iran, its intention is to limit the Islamic flow in the region and on the world level.

Taking into account America's defeat in implementing this policy, the failure of the Zionist regime is certain too. Iran is a powerful country and the industrial countries could achieve mutual benefit by establishing economic ties with it. Even American is counting down to the reestablishment of its ties with Iran. Therefore, these countries will never jeopardize their interest for the sake of other's policies. As Japan and Germany—in reply to America's repeated requests concerning pressure on Iran—have given negative responses, the Zionist regime too will not achieve anything in this area. Yet, the Zionist regime is facing the opposition and struggle of the Muslims people of the occupied lands and the region and will never reduce the pressure of these oppositions and struggle by putting pressure on Iran.

Heavy Industry's 'Deep-Rooted' Problems Said Eased

NC1908104494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 94 pp 1, 14

[Text] Tehran—A leading member of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet yesterday said "deep-rooted" problems in heavy industry have been removed except one. Work is being done to solve that.

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Minister of Heavy Industry Seyyed Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian said, "We should join hands with the big powers for a boom in our industry."

Nezhad-Hoseynian, in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "Ambiguity in the laws concerning foreign investment is one of the main hurdles. A bill in this respect is at the cabinet which will be sent to the Majles for approval".

Going into detail, Nezhad-Hoseynian said, "We have a law regarding this (foreign investment), but it is confusing to foreign investors." He emphasized that if the existing confusion is not removed, no foreign investment in heavy industry will be expected.

He said cooperation with the big powers is essential for the coordination for the quota of automobile exports, as South Korea, India, Indonesia and Malaysia have done.

"The law on automobiles, passed last year, provides the necessary basis for foreign investment," he said.

The first agreement was signed between Iran Khodrow (automobile) and Peugeot, a French company.

The French and Iranian companies each have a 45 percent share; another Iranian company holds 10 percent.

"The manufactured automobiles of the joint venture will be exported to regional countries," Nezhad-Hoseynian said.

Another agreement, he said, has been signed by South Korean Daewoo and the Automobile Industry of Kerman. Daewoo has a share of 34 percent in this project.

On the achievement of the First Five-Year Plan (March 1989-March 1994), Nezhad-Hoseynian said that the growth rate in heavy industry was 18.6 percent, higher than the 14.2 percent envisaged for the plan.

He said that Rls 1 trillion [rials] and $1.7 billion were invested during the First Five-Year Plan.

The soft spoken minister said that export during the first plan was predicted to be $1.6 billion, but it could not go beyond $400 million.

He said that the business of heavy industry like automobile industry is complicated; there is too much rivalry in the international market which is why we could not hit our target.

"We have been trying our best. In this (Iranian) year we have succeeded in exporting tractors worth $15 million to Libya and other countries," he said. The Iranian year starts on March 21.

Nezhad-Hoseynian said Iran, along with European countries, participated in and won a tender for the supply of 440 railway wagons to Syria.

Letter Seen as Part of Anti-Rafsanjani Campaign

MM1808141694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A number of retired senior Iranian Army officers urged Iranian Guide 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday to take "urgent measures to prevent the country from falling into the claws of crisis and chaos."

The appeal came in the form of a letter, paragraphs of which were leaked yesterday in Tehran by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's rivals. The officers' letter comes only a few days after a similar appeal issued by Army, Navy, and Air Force commanders for the sake of "national unity in the face of the danger threatening the country's safety and unity."

Analysts in Tehran believe that the two appeals form part of coordinated efforts to persuade Khamene'i to remove Rafsanjani or to reduce his powers as prime minister [as published]. Most of the officers signing the letter addressed to Khamene'i emerged during Iran's eight-year war with Iraq, and they enjoy a lot of respect among current serving officers. This political turbulence began to be felt in Tehran early this month, after the outbreak of unrest in Qazvin, which led to armed confrontations between residents and security forces, followed by sporadic demonstrations against the government in Qom. The government sought to calm the situation with a mixture of severity and leniency. Qazvin is in practice living under martial law. It is separated from other parts of the country. Hundreds have been arrested in the city. And there have been reports of arrests being made daily. In contrast, Khamene'i has extended an olive branch in Qom to "influential leaders who have kept away from the government since Khomeyni's death." The gesture, which reflects the government's wish to achieve a breakthrough with the clergy in Qom, was made last week, namely by lifting the restrictions imposed on Ayatollah Mir Mohammad Rohani, who is considered now the principal "authority on tradition" [marji' al-taqlid] for the Shiites in Iran, after he has regained his right to hold education courses, deliver lectures, and receive visitors without restrictions, or with only a few.

As for the restrictions imposed on the movements of Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri, they are still in effect. The reason is that Rafsanjani still considers Montazeri an effective point of gravitation and mobilization who is capable of gathering all his [Rafsanjani's] government rivals.

Rafsanjani, who is from time to time exposed to strong criticism from elements from inside and outside his regime, suffered another political setback when the Majles obstructed his five-year plan. The bill representing this five-year plan was approved only after the introduction of 300 amendments. And the Majles decided to set up more than 12 control committees to oversee every aspect of the economic policy.

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Nateq-Nuri, the mullah in charge of the Majles, admitted that "the way in which the Majles endorsed the five-year plan bill effectively means that no step can be taken regarding it." What has made the effect of the situation felt more is the increasing activities of a number of figures who worked under Khomeyni during the early stages of the revolution.

These figures managed to attract a crowd of about 15,000 people early in the month to participate in the funeral of the former Iranian ambassador to Paris in the days of Khomeyni, Shamsoddin Amiralai [as transliterated]. The ambassador was not involved in political work in the final years of life (88 years). But he was used as a symbol of the non-mullahs who cooperated with Khomeyni in the hope that the mullahs would return to the mosques after toppling the shah.

The former labor minister in the days of Khomeyni, Dariush Foruhar, who is now in detention, emerged as a leading figure among non-mullah Khomeyni followers. Some analysts believe that Foruhar (66) is considered a likely successor to Mehdi Bazargan, the elderly engineer (87) who held the post of prime minister in the days of Khomeyni. And Bazargan has tried since 1980 to organize internal opposition against the mullah regime.

Rebel Radio Salutes Antiregime Struggles

NC1908074994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: Tomorrow, 19 August 1994, marks the 16th anniversary of the bloody war in Kordestan. [passage omitted]

During the past 15 years the reactionary and inhuman clerical regime has refrained from no fascist step or crime, as a result of which many of Kordestan's cities, towns, and villages have been destroyed. Many villages have been evacuated by villagers and many people have become refugees. In these 15 years tens of thousands of Kurdish people have been martyred and rarely can a family be found that has not lost a dear one.

In a bid to force the people of Kordestan to surrender, the clerical regime has deployed hundreds of thousands of its suppressive forces in Kordestan and has besieged all of Kordestan's cities, villages, roads, and strategic points. It has failed to prevent the peshmergas from carrying out military operations and has failed to quell the hatred and dissatisfaction felt by the combatant Kurdish masses.

If the imposition of clerical rule with the help of war and suppression has cost the people of Kordestan the lives of tens of thousands of ordinary people and 5,000 peshmerga, it has also inflicted heavy blows on the clerical rule. According to figures in the archives of the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, between 17 June 1979, when this radio became operational, and 19 August 1994, over 39,000 members of the regime's suppressive forces have been killed in the war against DPK [Democratic Party of Kordestan] peshmerga. Some 25,000 have been wounded and many have been taken captive. During the same period many helicopters, tanks, military vehicles, and heavy artillery weapons have been destroyed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition and military materiel has been confiscated by the peshmerga.

The defeats suffered by the regime's forces, which have led to more troops being sent to Kordestan each day, speaks of facts that we feel we must reiterate. The most important of these facts is that the combatant people of Kordestan are profoundly, and with all their might, enamored with and thirsty for their freedom and human rights. It is because of this that 15 years of suppression and crime have failed to prevent them from resisting and fighting the antihuman clerical rule and from supporting the brave peshmerga of Kordestan. They actively and persistently continue their struggle to achieve their divine objectives.

The movement led by the DPK is a genuine movement rooted in the wants and wishes of the Kurdish people. Outstanding proof of this is the continuation of the armed war in Kordestan after the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The spectacular peshmerga operations after the cease-fire was established in the Iran-Iraq war prove the baselessness of the views of those who claimed that the end of the war meant the Kurdish movement's back was broken in Iran.

From early 1978 to 19 August this year the regime's pressures and onslaughts intensified and the regime deployed many troops in Kordestan. But the Kurdish people's resistance remains strong. From the last days of the spring of 1980 until 19 August this year, around 5,000 DPK peshmerga lost their lives in the struggle to vindicate the rights of the Kurdish people. This shows that from the start of the rule of the Islamic Republic, the DPK believed the Kordestan problem [words indistinct]. It also remains strong against the enemy concerning the rights and freedom of the Kurdish people. The loss of thousands of party members—from ordinary peshmerga to the highest levels of leadership, that is, people like Dr. Qasemlu and Dr. Sharafkandi—has not weakened the movement.

The years of war in Kordestan have also proven that many of those who resorted to extremist slogans to accuse the DPK of compromise left the scene once the conditions of the struggle became more difficult. It is the DPK that strongly and persistently remains in the arena of revolutionary struggle and that forms the backbone of the national-democratic movement of the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan.

There is a bitter truth in all this. If today the regime has deployed hundreds of thousands of its troops in Kordestan and used all its might to crush the just struggle of the Kurdish people it is because nowhere else in Iran does the regime face an active armed struggle. Those forces, with the outset of the [word indistinct] of clerical rule, [words indistinct] for Kordestan and for other [word indistinct] of Iran, were neither able to assist the Kurdish movement and its leadership nor start another armed struggle in

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[word indistinct] and other areas in Iran to force the regime to send some of its troops to that area and thus reduce the pressure on the Kurdish movement.

In view of all these facts, now, after 15 years of war, our party and the revolutionary and brave people of Kordestan remain steadfast in the arena of struggle and there is no doubt they will continue their armed struggle coupled with other types of struggle until they achieve their lofty objectives—democracy and autonomy.

If the imposed war on Kordestan has led to the martyrdom of tens of thousands of defenseless people and thousands of peshmerga and heroes and has inflicted heavy damage it has also made our party and our people more determined to achieve their goals and has displayed the antihuman nature of the clerical regime to the world.

Some 15 years of bloody combat have increased the experiences and elevated the knowledge of our people and have also nurtured their self-confidence and their reliance on the strength of the Kurdish people. That all the suppression and crime has failed to bend the steely determination of the Kurdish people has led to the world focusing attention on and offering its support with the Kurdish problem more than ever. The Kurdish people have shown that they will continue their struggles until they fulfill their basic demands at any price and that they will support their liberation movement, that is, the DPK, with all their might.

Pakistan

Ministry Spokesman Comments on Plutonium Shipment

BK1908121494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Islamabad—Islamabad has regretted the statement made by Berlin officials regarding an alleged plot to smuggle weapons-grade plutonium to Pakistan.

"We note that no arrests have been made and no radioactive material seized yet a 'suspicion' has been voiced," the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The spokesman said, "we categorically deny that any agency of the Government of Pakistan has attempted to acquire the plutonium. If the allegations stem from the fact that a Pakistani is amongst those under investigation, it should be noted that Germans and Poles are also cited as being part of the same ring."

"A constant campaign to implicate Pakistan in every clandestine activity related to nuclear matters is obviously directed by quarters with vested interests in maligning Pakistan. We can predict that like other stories this too will disappear after a few days." [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Need for High-Tech Weapon System

BK1808162194 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Aug 94 p 4

[Editorial: "High-Tech Defense System Should Be Acquired"]

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Leghari has said that if the United States does not supply the F-16 planes to Pakistan then it will purchase a high-tech weapon system from somewhere else. He was talking to newsmen after witnessing the Pakistan Air Force exercises. He said that we would like to purchase weapons and other equipment from the companies we used in the past. However, if the United States refuses permission to those companies and creates hurdles, then we will go to places where other countries of the world purchase weapons. Pakistan always preferred to purchase its basic defense requirements from the United States. It is now up to the U.S. Administration, legislators and leaders to decide whether to allow the supplies of equipment and a system to Pakistan. From the very beginning, Pakistan has remained dependent on U.S. weapons. Therefore, it would have been easy for it if the same process could have been continued. Switching over to any new system creates lot of difficulties. Most of the weapons and equipment which we already have might become unusable.

The United States, on the basis of an imaginary objection [as published] has deprived Pakistan of the facility to purchase weapons. Pakistan will now either have to wait for the day when it will be revealed to the U.S. Administration and pertinent organizations that there was no justification for stopping Pakistan from purchasing defense equipment and when Pakistan will be able to resume its purchase of weapons from the United States, or look for other sources and purchase its necessary defense equipment from there. It is evident to countries throughout the world, including the United States, that Pakistan has been the target of India's aggressive designs and that India is threatening Pakistan, both overtly and covertly, and deploying missiles at its borders. Clashes on the Line of Control are continuing. Under such circumstances, if Pakistan is forced to knock on doors which it never knocked on in the past to meet its defense requirements, then no one should have any objection to it.

Speaking on Indian independence day, Indian prime minister Narasimha Rao threatened Pakistan and said that Kashmir will be annexed to India. President Leghari categorically said in this regard that we support the Kashmir cause, and only the Kashmiris have the right to decide with whom they are going to be merged.

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Expressing satisfaction over the defense capability of the Pakistan Air Force, the president lauded their records of proficiency in warfare, professional expertise, valor and morale. He said that, after witnessing their capability, training and fortitude, he is now confident that they are capable of countering any kind of aggression, God willing. The government will meet the requirements of its armed forces. It is hoped that arrangements will be made soon to acquire an alternative to the F-16's so as to make the new defense system as effective as possible and dependable.

Sri Lanka

Party Performance in General Election Detailed

BK1808125694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The People's Alliance has won 105 seats in the 225-seat Parliament in Tuesday's [16 August] general election. The United National Party secured 94 seats. The People's Alliance won 91 seats at electoral division level and entitled to appoint 14 members from the national list. It polled 3,887,823 votes. The United National Party which polled 3,498,370 votes elected 81 members at the electoral division level, while 13 members were appointed from the national list making a total of 94. The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress polled 143,307 votes and won seven seats—six were elected at electoral division level while one was elected from the national list. The Tamil United Liberation Front polled 132,461 votes and obtained four seats and one may be appointed from the national list. The independent group from Nuwara Eliya won one seat, while the Democratic People's Liberation Front won three seats. The independent group-2 from the Jaffna District secured nine seats. The Sri Lanka Progressive Front polled 90,078 votes and obtained one seat. The Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, which polled 68,538 votes, failed to secure a seat in Parliament. The other parties or independent groups did not win any seat. Thirteen recognized parties and 26 independent groups comprising 1,144 candidates contested the election.

President D.B. Wijetunga has said that once all results are announced and the commissioner of elections issues the gazette notification, he will, in terms of the Constitution, appoint as prime minister a member of parliament most likely to command the confidence of Parliament and in consultation with that person proceed to appoint the cabinet.

Colombo Radio Profiles New Prime Minister

BK1908114294 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Sri Lanka today installed Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of the People's Alliance as its prime minister. She was sworn in before President D.B. Wijetunga at President's House this morning. A cabinet of 23 ministers was also sworn in at the morning ceremony. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga also took charge of the Ministries of Finance and Planning, Ethnic Affairs and National Integration. Mr. D.B. Wijetunga continues to be the minister of defense and Buddha sasana [religious affairs].

Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the deputy leader of the People's Alliance who contested in the Gampaha District, was returned with the highest number of preferential votes. She polled 464,588 preferential votes. Mrs. Kumaratunga was instrumental in the victory of the People's Alliance in Tuesday's general elections. She is the daughter of two former prime ministers. Mrs. Kumaratunga obtained the primary and secondary education at (Saint Bridge) Convent in Colombo. Thereafter, she graduated in political science from the University of Strasbourg in France and she is now reading for a Ph.D. in development economics at the same university. She is also fluent in French and has a fair knowledge of Russian, German, and Hindi. Mrs. Kumaratunga has been a research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Study at the University of London. She has served as an expert consultant of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Chairman of the Jana Savya [Poverty Alleviation] Commission, and additional principal director of the Land Reforms Commission. She received the training in political journalism with LE MONDE in Paris and was the guest lecturer at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Bradford University in England. Mrs. Kumaratunga is the deputy leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and executive member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party's Women Organizations. She took part in various research activities.

In the new cabinet of ministers, President D.B. Wijetunga holds the portfolios of defense and Buddha sasana. The others include Mrs. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike as minister without portfolio.

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